•11 killed as Abu Sayyaf, MILF raid Basilan village NEWS •507-carat diamond sold in HK for record $35.3M WORLD
•The Great 2010 Makeover : Aquino and Villar SUNDAY LIFESTYLE •Mitch Valdes and Nanette Inventor return to musical comedy: Juicy, no preservatives added ENTERTAINMENT •3 ways to make the most of your hotel stay • 12 tips on how to keep fit even when you're indulging in high-calorie munchies and zero exercise • For traveling geeks: 5 must-have gadgets SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

8.8 quake strikes Chile

78 deaths and counting; tsunami alert up in RP

SANTIAGO, CHILE—A MASSIVE 8.8-MAGNITUDE EARTHquake struck Chile early Saturday, killing at least 78 people, collapsing buildings and setting off a tsunami.

A huge wave reached a populated area in the Robinson Crusoe Islands, 800 kilometers off the Chilean coast, said President Michele Bachelet.

In the moments after the quake, people streamed onto the streets of the capital, hugging each other and crying.

"Never in my life have I experienced a quake like this, it's like the end of the world," one man told local television from the city of Temuco, where the quake damaged buildings and forced staff to evacuate the regional hospital.

Tsunami warnings were issued over a wide area, including South America, Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand, Japan, the Philippines, Russia and many Pacific islands. (See story on Page 4A).

(The Department of Foreign Affairs said last night there are 88 Filipinos in Chile. There were no reports "of anyone being hurt." The DFA said it was able to contact a certain Narciso Castañeda at the Philippine Embassy in Santiago, which sustained some damage. Castañeda was quoted by the DFA as saying all embassy personnel, including the ambassador, were safe.)

"It has been a devastating earthquake," Interior Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma told reporters.

Bachelet said the death toll was at 78 and rising, but officials had no information on the number of people injured. She declared a "state of catastrophe" in central Chile.

8.8 QUAKE/ A4

Inspired hunt for finest teachers wins Grand Anvil

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT STARTED IN THE PARLIAMENT OF the streets in the thick of the protest movement against the distance Ferdinand Marcos in 1985.

Metrobank founding chair George SK Ty observed that many of the protesters were teachers demanding better wages. He wanted to do something for them. And thus the Search for Outstanding Teachers was born.

Twenty-five years later, the Search has won this year's Grand Anvil Award, for recognizing the important contributions of teachers in society and inspiring them to aspire for excellence.

The Anvil Awards honors the best practices in public relations. The Metrobank Search hosted 292 nominated programs and tools, the highest number of entries in the award-giving body's 40-year history.

Metrobank Foundation president Aniceto Sobrepeña said: "We wanted to help encourage our teachers to aspire for excellence and to look at a goal. We have to give importance to the students of the classrooms of our people."

In the past 26 years, the project had honored 286 outstanding teachers.

The Metrobank Search was best public relations program because of

INSPIRED/ A2

'12 Things Every Filipino Can Do To Help' Alex Lacson win Senate seat

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WHILE THE MONEYED CANDIDATES are blowing hundreds of millions of pesos to win office in 2010, a political greenhorn is attempting to gain a Senate seat using the most unorthodox and simplest means to court voters' approval.

Elections 2010

As in his surprise bestseller, "12 Things Every Filipino Can Do To Help Our Country," in which he offers the simplest, most doable ways by which patriotic Filipinos could better the nation, Alex Lacson has conceived a campaign strategy that employs very modest methods to create ripples of support for his Senate bid.

A candidate in Sen. Benigno Aquino III's Liberal Party slate, Lacson asks households to invite their next-door neighbors over for a chat about him; call up family connections to spread his story and hang photocopies of his posters outside their home.

Lacking the traditional politician's formidable campaign machinery, Lacson has tapped into the wonders of text messaging to raise funds—an unprecedented arrangement voluntarily offered by people inspired by his compelling message.

Lacson related how friends working at a major telecommunications company had set up an account where those wishing to support Lacson can donate any amount ranging from P5 to P1,000 through a text message.

This kind of fund-raising scheme is usually employed for humanitarian organizations, most recently by the Philippine National Red Cross to raise funds for the victims of Typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" that hit the country

12 THINGS/ A4

GREEN-HORN Alex Lacson shows how a newbie senatorial candidate of modest means can court voters. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ...)

Villar: Kids can't vote, so ₱20 is not vote-buying

By Nikko Dizon
in Pangasinan
and Michael Lim Ubac
in Manila

VILLASIS, PANGASINAN—THE KIDS were hungry and wanted to eat corncob (a root crop). Is that vote-buying?

This was the retort of Sen. Manuel Villar, standard-bearer of the Nacionalista Party (NP), to critics assailing his P20 handout to young children at a market while on a campaign sortie in Barangay City on Friday.

"First of all, what's wrong with giving [money] to children? They cannot vote. That's not vote-buying. And that was money for them to buy corncob," Villar yesterday told reporters in Filipino following the induction of a local women's group at the packed public gym in Villasis.

"Even children who are fed only corncob are dragged into intrigues. They're pitiful. And it's not sold anywhere that eating corncob during a campaign is prohibited," he said.

(If the senator appears hung up on the root crop, it's probably because boiled corncob is his favorite snack, as the Inquirer has learned from his Senate staff and younger brother.)

Villar also said the distribution of

VILLAR/ A4

Noynoy wants to win Malacañang, but not live in it

By Philip C. Tubeza

IF HE WINS THE PRESIDENCE, HE plans to work in Malacañang and go home to Times Street.

Liberal Party presidential candidate Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III on Tuesday said he would not want to live in Malacañang if he wins the presidency.

The son of martyred national hero Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and international democracy icon, the late President Corazon "Cory" Aquino, said he preferred to live at the family home on Times Street, Quezon City, so the powers and trappings of the presidency would not go to his head.

"Malacañang seems to have a negative effect on any occupant like [Ferdinand] Marcos and [Gloria Macapagal-

NOYNOY/ A4

Paco Market rehab preserves RP culture, saves Pasig River

WHERE THERE'S A WILL ... For the longest time, the Estero de Paco, a tributary of Pasig River, was choked with all shapes and forms of garbage.

By Sunshine Lichauco de Leon
Contributor

BUILT IN 1913, PACO MARKET in Manila is one of the oldest market structures in the country. But it is also a primary pollutant of the Estero de Paco, which flows into the Pasig River.

Paco Market's redevelopment is in the works although the plan is to do more than fix a century-old structure. It's a pioneering idea with the goal of preserving Philippine history and culture and, at the same time, encouraging commercial sustainability and cleaning the Pasig River.

Imagine Paco Market thus—an environment where commerce, community and culture thrive.

Project designer Maja Olivares-Co explains her personal motivation for the renovation: "I love markets. I believe that when I travel, going to a market

PACO MARKET/ B1

—THERE'S A WAY With the trash cleared and the first of many more steps to save the Pasig River having been achieved, the redevelopment of the close-to-a-century-old Paco Market is underway.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO

2PM	12 28
5PM	29 3
9PM	6 22

SUERTRES

2PM	4 0 8
5PM	7 5 7
9PM	3 0 0

SIX DIGIT (6 numbers)

3 7 8 5 2 0

6/55 LUCKY 6/49

4 8 20 21 38 31

P4,266,001.00

POWERBALL 6/55

6 18 19 36 45 + 5

P89,208,064.00

11 killed by alleged MILF, Abu gunmen

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AT LEAST 11 PEOPLE, including two children, were killed when suspected Moro rebels and Abu Sayyaf bandits raided a village in Mohoro, Basilan, early yesterday.

It was the worst attack on civilians in nine years, according to authorities who initially gave the fatality figure as 13, which later converted.

The group of about 75 gunmen was led by Abu Sayyaf leader Puruji Indanan and backed by members of the unrecognized Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), according to Basilan police chief Senior Supt. Antonio Mendoza Jr.

They attacked a civilian militia detachment in the center of the village of Tabiguis at about 5:45 a.m. A militia member was one of the 11 killed.

Some of the victims were buried beyond recognition when the attackers strafed and strafed several houses before escaping, Mendoza said.

The attack came in the wake of the recent killing of Abu Sayyaf commander Albader Parad and the arrest of his key members.

The military had been expecting the Abu Sayyaf to launch retaliatory attacks for Parad's death and troops had been told to be on alert for reprisal attacks.

Mendoza said the attack came barely nine hours after security forces rescued two Chinese nationals in nearby Sitangkai town. The two men were abducted by the Indanan group from a pilot wood factory in Mohoro in November. 6 Filipino workers, Marijoel Alipaso, who was seized along with the Chinese, was beheaded by the kidnappers.

Tabiguis is about seven kilometers from Mohoro poblacion village, where the Chinese nationals were rescued, Mendoza said.

Military troops rushed to reinforce the civilian militia force defending Tabiguis, said there have been no other reports of additional casualties, said Western Command spokesperson Lt. Sheffani Cunha.

Worst attack since 2001

"The villagers were asleep when the rebels came and started spraying houses with automatic gunfire, setting them on fire," Cunha told reporters. She said that four children among the casualties suffered third-degree burns. Hundreds of residents were also displaced, she said.

It was the worst attack on civilians since 2001, when the bandits and other rebel groups seized dozens of villagers and later beheaded nine farmers and shot to death another in Lantawan town.

Mendoza identified the fatalities as Arjie Bayra, 9; Karen Bayra, 7; Abigail Bayra, 32, whose charred remains were later recovered; Isabelo Bayra; Subhanian Serjale Luping; Tirahaan Andaani; Hadel Liling Pagdalilan; John Lupingo; Jaydee Lupingo; Jonathan Lupingo; Nicholas and Teresa Dijalan.

Two people were taken to an evacuation hospital in the province, Talib Jiba, Sandy Tawasa, Nancy de la Cruz, Usman Asaan, Amel Jumlibas, Maymona Jeadil, Jonathan Jumlibas, Jason Jumlibas, Alexander Barudanan and 13-year-old Kimberly Bayra, who was in critical condition.

Children not spared

Councilor Leberg Luping, who was among those surviving the overrun, said he believed the Indanan group was after him.

Leberg said the attack was retaliatory because Indanan had suspected that he and the municipal chief, Jalil Jiba, were instrumental in the release of the Tiburon nationals.

Mendoza said Leberg has been very active in anti-Abu Sayyaf operations in the province.

Muslim Rebels March Armed homemade shotguns had become a normal occurrence in Basilan and that the rebels and bandits did not spare the children.

"Basilanos are affected, alarmed and disturbed over this incident...we hardly breathe the air of peace," Armand said.

Mendoza said the gunmen, who fled to Barangay Liboy in Isabela, were being pursued by a team from the police, the Army and the Marines.

Basilan active site for Abu

Basilan island is close to the southern port city of Zamboanga and is one of several islands where the Abu Sayyaf is active.

Parad, who was wanted for murder and kidnapping, including last year's abduction of three Red Cross workers, was killed last week during a raid on his camp on Jolo island further south of Basilan.

A day later, police captured Muslim serial kidnapping, including last year's abduction of three Red Cross workers, was killed last week during a raid on his camp on Jolo island further south of Basilan.

A day later, police captured Muslim serial kidnapping, including last year's abduction of American Jeffrey Schilling, who later escaped, and 21 Malaysian tourists and staff of the Malaysian resort of Sipadan earlier in the year.

Also, last week, security forces captured Jumaakil Asaul, who was allegedly the operator of the speedboat used in the abduction of 20 foreigners snatched from a resort in Malaysia in 2001. The hostages included three Americans, two of whom were later killed.

Adin Jr. Abpalo, Inquirer Mindanao, with AP and Reuters reports

Int'l peace monitors return to Mindanao

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE 60-MAN INTERNATIONAL Monitoring Team (IMT) overseeing the ceasefire between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is expected to return to Mindanao today after both sides resumed peace talks last month.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rafael Seguis, chief government negotiator, said in a recent interview the IMT members would come from Brunei, Libya, Japan and Malaysia.

The European Union, Qatar, Indonesia and Norway had also been invited to join the team, Seguis said.

The IMT, which has a one-year renewable mandate, would be redeployed on the 81st week of March, he added.

The Japanese Embassy in Manila said two Japanese development experts—Kazunori Kikuchi, first secretary of the Japanese Embassy in the Philippines, and Yuuko Abe, second secretary of the embassy, would be sent to IMT headquarters in Cotabato City today.

Both experts would be working on the socioeconomic development aspect of the IMT, including assessment of the needs for reconstruction and development, monitoring of development projects in the former conflict-affected areas, and the formulation of a comprehensive development plan.

"Japan has recognized the significance of the Mindanao peace process and contributed to its progress through various assistance projects called J-DIRO and participation in the International Contact Group among others," the Japanese Embassy said in a statement.

Japan said a 20-man team from Malaysia was also expected to arrive today.

On Feb. 17, an eight-man IMT advance team headed by Lt. Gen. Datuk Raja Mohammad Alfindi bin Raja Mohamad, chief of staff of the Malaysian Armed Forces headquarters, arrived in Manila before proceeding to Mindanao to conduct an onsite inspection.

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Population rate not falling fast enough–Cabral

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE GOVERNMENT'S FAMILY planning program has "not (been) as successful as we would want it to be," Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral has acknowledged.

Cabral said the long-term trend is slowing down, it is not coming down at the rate necessary to improve the socioeconomic status of the country."

In an interview last week, Cabral said: "Our goal for the population growth rate by 2015 is 1.9 percent per year. It was 2.04 percent in 2000."

Cabral said the government needed to "bring it down much more than that, like to a level of 1.3 to 1.4 percent per annum where the population will stabilize."

Family planning remains one of the DOH's thrusts, Cabral said, as this ensured the need to fulfill the commitments as embodied in the (government's) Medium-Term Development Plan and the MDG (United Nations Millennium Development Goals)."

Informed choice

"And they're related to the reduction of infant and maternal mortality, as well as the control of widespread chronic diseases like tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS."

Asked about problems facing the family planning program, Cabral said, "Principally, it's because we do not have programs that should provide our families with an informed choice and with the means to exercise their choices."

"It's because we [were was] really just on natural family planning," she said.

"There's nothing wrong with natural family planning," she added, "It has been shown to also reduce the rate of unwanted pregnancies."

"But it's not the best method. There are other methods even better than natural family planning," she said, apparently referring to artificial birth control means.

"The point is a person or a family must have a choice. And the choice must be informed," she said.

On the Catholic Church's opposition to the Department of Health's population control program, Cabral said, "They are very specialized (sic)."

Willing to negotiate

But she said that the DOH was "always willing to discuss and negotiate (the program)."

In its report on the Philippines, the UN Millennium Campaign for the MDGs) said that "while the country is progressing well in its bid to achieve most of the MDG targets, a faster pace of gains is urgently needed to reach some of the 2015 goals, especially because poverty has increased in the country."

"The country's high population growth rate is dilluting the gains of economic growth. The larger the population a country has, the greater will be the pressure on limited social services and on our environment," it said.

Here, "more than one million babies are born every year. They will be needing resources in the future, such as health care, schooling, food, clothing and later on, employment. From today, these needs are not being met."

Study shows mango may prevent cancer

By Jerry E. Esplanada

HEALTH CARE ADVOCATES ARE hailing it as a "ray of hope" for cancer patients and "good news" for the country's mango industry.

In an "unexpected and groundbreaking discovery" scientists at Texas A & M University have discovered that mango extracts can prevent, if not stop, the growth of breast and colon cancer cells.

Mango extracts had "demonstrated some cancer-fighting ability when tested on lung, leukemia and prostate cancer cells," according to the university's agri-life research department which conducted the studies commissioned by the National Mango Board of Orlando, Florida.

Programmed cell death

And when tested on breast and colon cancers, the mango compounds were found to have even stronger anticancer abilities.

"In fact, the mango extracts caused the breast and colon cancer cells to undergo apoptosis, or programmed cell death," the scientists said.

The studies were conducted by food scientists Dr. Susanne Talcott and her husband and co-researcher, Dr. Steve Talcott, who used the five mango varieties common in the US... Keitt, Tommy Atkins and Haden.

The results of the Talcotts' studies have been praised as the Philippine Cancer Society's website.

Alex Asuncion, head of the PCS education and information division, described the data as "very positive" but, like some like DOH officials, wondered if local mango varieties would show the same results.

The most common local mango varieties are the carabao, champagne or honey mango, also known as mangging kalabaw and recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records as the "sweetest in the world"; pico, katchamita or Indian; and the tiny pahutan or poto (mangifera altissima).

Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral said she would still have to look into the studies and cautioned local cancer patients against putting too much hope on the developments.

Two different things

"Between saying that on a molecular level certain substances found in mango can retard the growth of cancer cells or saying that it will prevent or cure cancer are two different things," Cabral said.

Still, she said "fruits are healthy foods and we should be eating our recommended daily allowance of five to nine servings of fruits."

"There is every reason to eat mangoes along with other fruits because they are very healthy," Cabral said.

Mangoes contain antioxidants and essential nutrients like potassium, copper and 17 amino acids. The pool contains pigments that may have anticancer properties, including carotenoids and polyphenols, any of which may counteract the free radicals that cause diseases.

The PCS report said the Talcotts "specifically tested polyphenol extracts from mango" on cancer cells. Polyphenols are natural substances in plants that are the antioxidants that can protect the body from diseases.

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Inspired hunt for finest teachers wins Grand Anvil

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From page A1

its sustainability, said 40th Anvil Awards chair Eduardo Alcuaz.

"The process of improving local education is long and arduous. Thus, to have been doing it for a quarter of a century is already a huge accomplishment," he noted.

This year's nominees helped a wide range of sectors like education, health and the arts and have "benefited the general public," Alcuaz told the listeners after the awarding ceremony on Friday night.

From elementary to college

In brief, the Metrobank Foundation project looks for teachers from elementary to college levels who display instructional competence, community involvement and excellent research and creative output.

Nominations are accepted starting October until February. The awards are usually given in September, with each winner getting a P250,000 cash prize, a gold medallion and a trophy.

Sobrepeña said the biggest prize was the honor the search conferred on its winners, who would go on to win other awards, get promoted or finish post-graduate studies after being selected as among the Metrobank Foundation's outstanding teachers.

The foundation had also taken the extra mile to encourage participation and look for good teaching practices in far-flung schools to screen before board officers, he added. Thus, [and winners came from hotels in Batanes and Jolo, Pasilao, Tandayapan and Tharita, Catubato and Maguindanao.

The project's awardees were educators who remained in the country despite limited resources. Some past winners even produced students who later became ministers of the search themselves.

Institutionalized activity

Sobrepeña said he was proud that the Metrobank Search had grown from a corporate social responsibility project to an "institutionalized" activity in the country.

Teachers looked forward to joining the search and attained honors until the judges[']s criteria in developing teachers.

In honoring the 25-year-old project, Alcuaz reminded public relations practitioners that "for a PR program to be effective, it must be well-monitoring; evaluative by a research [illegible] ability is very important."

The Anvil Awards are given by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP). This year, 32 juries, including business columnist Sino Antonio David, evaluated the entries. University of the Philippines economics professor Clarence Bautista Jr. was chair of this year's board of jurors.

Other awards

The judges chose the following themes awardees: Ayala Corp.'s celebration of its 175th anniversary; the Bank of the Philippine Islands' coffee table art collection book "Heritage: A Legacy of Art and Progress" that included a teacher's manual; and the Energy Development Corp.'s annual report titled "Growing Local."

The Metrobank Foundation also received three other awards of excellence here dealt for the following projects: The 2009 Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (MADE); 2009 Search for "The Outstanding Philippine Soldier (TOPS); and the 2009 Search for the Country's Outstanding Volunteer in Service (COPS).

The company's Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company won an award of merit for its 2008 audited annual report while Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) got an award of merit for its Meralco Foundation, also got an excellence award for a medical mission for typhoon victims in Tacloban and an award of merit for its program for patients with cleft deformities.

Metrobank's sister company Philippine Savings Bank (PSBank), also got an award of merit for its 2008 annual report.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 28, 2010
2nd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Gen 15:5-12, 17-18

Yahweh brought him outside and said to him, 'Look up at the sky and count the stars if you can. Your descendants will be like that.' Abram believed Yahweh and this was counted to him as uprightness. And he said, 'I am Yahweh who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.'

'Sir,' Abram asked, 'Oh Lord, how am I to know that it shall be mine?' Yahweh replied, 'Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtle-dove and a young pigeon.' Abram brought all these animals, cut them in two, and laid each half facing its other half; but he did not cut the birds in half. The birds of prey came down upon the dead, but Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down a deep sleep came over Abram, and a dreadful darkness descended on him.

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking brazier and a flaming torch passed between the halves of the victims. On that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I have given this country from the river of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates.'

Psalm 115:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Lord, in listening to me, brothers and sisters, and look at those who walk in my way of life. For many have become enemies of the cross of Christ. I have cried to you many times, and now I repeat it with tears: they are heading for ruin; their belly is their god and they boast in what should be their shame. They only think of earthly things.

For us, our citizenship is in heaven, from where we await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. He will transfigure our lowly body, giving it the same glorious body as he is Lord, through the power which is his to submit everything to himself.

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Lk 9:28b-36

About eight days after Jesus had said all this, he took Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became dazzling white. Two men were talking with Jesus—Moses and Elijah. They had just appeared in heavenly glory and were telling him about his departure that he[']s to take place in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had fallen asleep, but they were suddenly and fully awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were about to leave, Peter said to him, 'Master, how good it is for us to be here! So we can make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' For Peter didn't know what to say. And no sooner had he spoken than a cloud appeared and covered them; and the disciples were afraid as they entered the cloud. Then there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, my Chosen one, listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was there alone.

The disciples kept this to themselves at the time, telling no one of anything they had seen.

Gospel Reflection:

And Peter said, Master, how good it is that we are here. He will make three tents..."

It is so easy to assume that
by praying alone,
we will arrive at the pinnacle
of the spiritual life.
But it is exactly then that Jesus
is calling us to leave our
little encampments
to run to the world as He saved
for the world.

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UC Berkeley cites alumnus Puno for record of service

By Doris Pura-Bugtai

FOR HIS "OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION" to the administration of justice in the country, Chief Justice Reynato Puno is being honored with an international award by his alma mater, the University of California, Berkeley.

Puno is the first Filipino to receive the Elsie and Walter A. Haas International award, which is given to an international UC Berkeley alumnus for his "distinguished record of service to his country."

He joins the elite list of Haas awardees which include heads of state, ministers and diplomats, according to the Supreme Court which announced the award received by Puno yesterday.

Puno, who is also the first chief justice Puno awardee, will receive the award on May 16, one day before he retires when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 70.

Highest values

The university said Puno's "career exemplified Berkeley's highest values."

"Your contributions to the administration of justice in the Philippines are truly outstanding by any measure. The range of the impact your service has had in the Philippines is extensive and has directly benefited the well-being of the Filipino people," said UC Berkeley chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau in a feb. 16 letter to Puno.

Puno, who graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Law in 1963, obtained a master of laws from UC Berkeley through a scholarship from the Walter Perry Johnson Foundation.

The Haas International Award was established in 1964 to mark the 50th wedding anniversary of Walter A. Haas, the head of Levi Strauss, and his wife, arts patron Elise Haas. The award acknowledges the couple's devotion to the university and their interest in internationalchairs.

It comes with a cash prize of $15,000, an engraved medallion and travel expenses for the recipient to attend the award's presentation at the university's commencement exercises in May.

PAGC lists top graft-busters

FORTYEIGHT GOVernment agencies are on the list of the top 10 Anti-Graft Champi. ons of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) for 2009.

Secretary Constancio de Guzman, PAGC chief, announced the awardees at the year's first follow-up meeting on the integrity Development Action Plan (iDap), the national anticorruption framework, and its culminating phase, the Sword Reinvented Action Program.

More than 200 government officials attended the meeting held at the Bonifacio Macapagal Hall of the Land Bank of the Philippines Nayad office.

The Hop consists of 22 antigraft measures make from major areas of implementation—corruption prevention, education, awareness and strategic partnership.

The awards were divided into five categories—for the national government agencies (NGAs), and for the government nurse? and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs).

Blazing the top spot in the NGA category were the Department of Social Welfare and Development and of Health.

No agency made it to second place.

The Department of Public Works and Highways was in third place.

In the GOCC and GFI category, the members were the Land Bank, National Housing Authority, National Irrigation Administration, Social Security System, and National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.

Villar: Kids can't vote ...

From page A1

scholarships to children during his "festivities" session at the SM Mall of Asia grounds on Thursday night was "nevermind."

He said the scholarships were given earlier on "advancement," the TV committee chairwoman by his supporters, Willie Revillame, "before the filing of the CoC's (certificates of candidacies)."

Election Commissioner Rene Sarmiento assured on Friday that if a complaint is filed against him, Villar could face charges of vote-buying for handing out the scholarships at the concert.

"Under Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code, the prohibited acts include giving money or anything of value to favor one candidate. It's called vote-buying," Sarmiento told reporters.

"The applies to everyone," he said, adding that vote-buying could involve just about "anything," including scholarships.

Sarmiento, however, said a complaint needed to be filed at the Commission on Elections (Comelec) before it could open an investigation.

41 children

On the phone yesterday with the Inquirer in Manila, SP spokesperson and assessment candidate Gilbert Remulla said it was not scholarships but "one-time financial assistance" that Villar had given out.

Remulla said there were a number of reasons why the "financial assistance" given to 42 urban poor children during the tech contest organized by Villar's daughter Camille on Thursday night did not constitute vote-buying.

"It happened last January (Villar) was then at 'Wowowee' and 42 out of school youths were presented by Willie, who then asked the senator to sponsor them," Remulla said.

Villar quickly granted the request and shelled out P1 million, according to Remulla.

"So each of the kids was given about P71,000," he said, adding that the amount would cover tuition and other school expenses for a scholarship. (The exact amount is P71,428.57.)

Ostensibly to avoid being accused of using the occasion for campaign purposes, Villar was careful not to go up the stage, Remulla said.

Camille Villar took her father's place, and was embraced by the children when she showed up on stage with Revillame, the main host of the concert.

"He (The distribution of financial assistance) was merely ceremonial in nature because (the actual donations) happened before the campaign season," Remulla said.

Up to Comelec

Villar can rest assured that the party of his chosen rival for the presidency will not initiate a disqualification case against him for distributing scholarships.

In a press conference yesterday at the general aviation office of the Mactan-Cebu International Airport, the Liberal Party (LP) nominated Senator Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, said he was leaving the matter up to the Comelec.

Aquino said that while one could view the distribution of scholarships as a form of vote-buying, the LP was not planning to file a complaint against Villar.

"The Comelec itself made the comment on that," Aquino said. "I am not a lawyer and I cannot give advice to my rival. He has competent legal minds to assist him."

Aquino said he had instructed his staff to just up a clear division between his campaign and his public duties as a senator in order to avoid charges of vote-buying. With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr

'I2 Things Every Filipino ...'

From page A1

last year.

"This has not been done by any political candidate and we are also aiming to launch this soon," said Lacson, who was born in Hinundolan, Siquijor. Hinundolan, he a school-teacher mother and a father who did not go beyond high school. He finished his law studies at the University of the Philippines where he was a working student for nine years.

We write our story

His sensational bid is actually a continuation of his book's message, said Lacson.

The message is that "we are the builders of the greatness of the Filipino people. We write our own story," he told business editors and reporters at a dinner on Thursday.

The most recent Pulse Asia pre-election candidate preference survey for the senatorial race ranked Lacson 12th to 15th with a 23-percent awareness level, higher than fourth newspaper front page regulars like former Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III.

Climbing in awareness

Lacson noted that although he has no infrastructure to ring on either television or radio, he seems to be faring better in the surveys than former legislators like Francisco Tatad, Gilbert Remulla, and incumbent party-list representatives Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel and Satur Ocampo, among others.

Ever since he came opposed last August to the list of senatorial candidates for the May 10 balloting, his popularity has been steadily increasing, he said. He initially ranked 25th in poll surveys.

Lacson attributed his improving performance to his 3rd book which has sold more than 300,000 copies since it came out in 2005. It is now on its 11th printing.

The 160-page booklet is aimed at arming the civic spirit among Filipinos — through such small, seemingly easy-to-obey traffic rules, paying taxes, buying locally made products and adopting a scholar or child — and make them realize up to the realization that the country's destiny is shaped by its people, not by its political leaders.

800 speaking engagements

"This book really opened doors for me," said the 48-year-old Lacson, it has helped him in getting the endorsement of an multisectoral band of supporters—even some from rival parties—who either own or have read the book.

"It's just because in the last four years, I've been to at least 800 speaking engagements," he said.

After the book gained notice—initially in the press, including the Inquirer—Lacson was invited to address numerous forums, whose audiences included businessmen, teachers, students and youth leaders.

Last week, he was invited to speak to some 2,000 youth leaders in Negros Occ. where he met Governor Isidro Zayco of the Unang Sigaw Party which is in coalition with the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

"If I never met him (Lacson) but when I gave him the book, he suddenly realized that I was also Lacson and asked me if I was running for senator," he recounted.

"Right then and there he ordered me," he said.

Early last Thursday he flew to Boracay to address some 800 barangay leaders from the Ilocos region and came away with a pledge from each that they would vote for him if he gave them a copy of his book.

Campaign contributions have also started to trickle in from private individuals, who were apparently inspired by his book.

"I was really surprised by the support but we have refused to accept contributions from big-ticket donors," said Lacson.

Key areas

His platform focuses on five key areas: providing education for poor Filipinos, jobs for new graduates, protection of the environment for every Filipino household and fighting corruption.

"This is just an extension of what I've been doing for years: preserving patriotism," said Lacson.

"I really believe every Filipino deserves a chance to live a very beautiful life in the country where God planted him (and) I would like to fight for that kind of life for every Filipino," he said.

Speaking confidently of his plans to inspire change in the country, Lacson said his bid had received news about running when his name was included in the LP senatorial lineup released on Nov. 9.

Sacrifice for country

He added the 12 campaign managers, Fluman said, he would be taking time from the list. The vice presidential candidate Sen. Manuel Roxas as managed to convince him to stay on the ticket.

But on the last day for the filing of candidacy papers on Dec. 1, Lacson said he still had no decision but he should not run. "We told ourselves this is not for us," he said.

Later that day, however, Aquino spoke with him. Aquino asked Lacson if he could make a "sacrifice for the country" like what he was doing.

"But he stressed that he wanted me to make it, that's what I remember," said Lacson.

After he finally made the decision to run, Lacson said he still asked why he would want to go into politics when he already has a good name.

"I told him, 'what will I do with a good name? Just enjoy it or can I use it for a greater purpose?'" said Lacson.

Noynoy wants to win Malacañang ...

From page A1

victory," Aquino said on Tuesday when he visited the hopefuls.

He said he would want to "go home at the end of the day" to his house on Times Street "provided (the Presidential Security Group (PSG)) commander agrees and assuming my neighbors do not complain."

"When you go back home at the end of the day, [you're reminded that] you're just an ordinary president doesn't go to your head, this is what you should do," he added.

Been there

While his career climbs him for his el- loped lack of executive experience, Aquino said at all the presidential candidates, except for deposed President Joseph Estrada—he was the only one with first-hand knowledge of the intricacies of how things work in Malacañang, including how to handle intrigues.

"I think with the exception of Erap, I'm the only one [with experience being] problems in Malacañang. It's not just about the money ... there is a method ... on how to survive as a woman. That was an unusual period," Aquino said, referring to the years the Palace during his mother's tumultuous presidency.

"I've been there. We've been in Malacañang. We were at the center of all the intrigues. I am not a neophyte as far as that is concerned," he stressed.

Convincing the PSG

Aquino said during his mother's early years in Malacañang, he had to help convince the PSG's loyalty to President Cory because even the elite presidential guards had been infiltrated by military rebels.

"Initially, the attitude of all of us (Aquino children) should return to our parents. But during the coup attempts, she said, 'Maybe it is hard for them to talk to me because I'm a woman. Maybe you could talk to them in an unofficial capacity.'" he said, recounting his mother's marching orders.

Aquino said he was successful in convincing PSG officers to remain loyal to his mother during the coup attempts although the rebels were their cousins or classmates at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

"Your stomach is your survival mechanism but it became clear I'm [here] that their duty was to the country, the republic and the Constitution, their attitude were wrong," he said.

Feedback mechanism

Aquino also said he was the "bearer of bad news" or the feedback mechanism as he gave his mother information she needed to hear although usually not to her liking.

"She would even say, 'Every time you come, there's bad news.' And I would reply: 'Just in case this was not mentioned to you, at least you know,'" he narrated.

Aquino recalled that after those conversations, "my mother would rock my ta-xonio dolores."

Childhood friends

Now that he's running for president, Aquino said he would depend on his "childhood friends" to give him the most—good or bad.

And like his mother, who came to power in 1986 with a broad coalition of groups from Left to Right, Aquino said he had to contend with "very bad debates."

At last count, he said there were at least 38 national, regional and local groups that came together only in the last five months.

"It's incumbent on me to become the director from time to time ... the referee, the conciliator. I should be the one with the longest patience, but I think the competition for worst has ended. I think that has somewhat stabilized," he said.

Two-million signatures

Aquino reiterated that he had no idea before his mother's death in August that he would be assuming a presidential campaign, adding that on the morning of Sept. 9—hours before he formally announced his candidacy—he still had doubts.

"Even when we were composing the speech at 4:30 a.m. I was asking myself: 'Is this for real? Do I know what I'm getting into?' he said in a mixture of English and Filipino.

"Five-and-a-half months ago, I never thought I'd be running for president of the country. I thought this would be the easiest presidential election as I would only be an observer," he said.

Aquino said the idea of running for president was first mentioned to him after his mother's funeral Mass at the Manila Cathedral. A supporter asked if Aquino would consider running for president if he was presented with a million signatures.

"I joked: 'When my mother ran, we were only 50 million [Filipinos], now we're 100 million. But when the supporters said 'OK so would 2 million signatures be enough?' I realized he [was serious]. He had really thought about it," Aquino said.

How to tell Mar

"Actually, all along, my biggest problem was how to tell Mar," he revealed.

Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas was then the 12 standard-bearer, now Aquino's running-mate.

It was Roxas who "formally offered" that Aquino be the LP presidential candidate.

"He was the one who asked," Aquino said. "He made it a lot easier. He told me if I was ready to accept the responsibility, he was ready to step aside. I didn't ask that of him. I did not ask for a meeting."

Aquino said the "turning point" came after his emotional retreat in Tarlac days and after all of his siblings agreed that he should run.

The decision to run for president, Aquino said, came from a "sense of obligation and duty."

Sis vows no 'Kamag-anak Inc.' in Aquino presidency

By Evangelista Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon

MABOLO, MENA, ILOA—THERE will be no "Kamag-anak Inc." to a foreign "Mistress" Aquino presidency.

Pinky Aquino-Abellada, the Lib-eral Party presidential candidate's sister, said Aquino's unmarried family would not be allowed to meddle in the affairs of government, if he becomes president.

Abellada, who was the guest speaker at the silver anniversary celebrations of the computer train-ing center of the Central Luzon State University here, said she and her three sisters—Ballsy Aquino Cruz, Viel Aquino Dee and Kris Aquino Yap—would continue in their professions after helping their brother in the presidential campaign.

Abellada, who has an economics degree, said she and her sisters would not interfere or dictate on their bachelor brother how he should run the country.

The Aquino siblings are children of the martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. and the late President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino.

"We had been in exactly the same situation before when our mother served as president. We never meddled," said Abellada.

The elective phrase "Kamag-anak Inc." was coined by critics of former President Aquino to refer to her relatives who were accused of meddling in the affairs of govern-ment and of using their connections for their own ends during her term from 1986 to 1992.

Abellada said that while she and her siblings respected their rela-tives, they would not hesitate to act if they saw that something was not right.

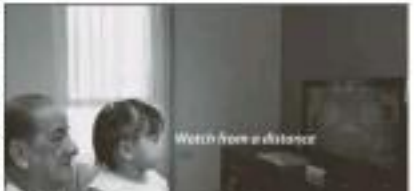
"We will tell our brother about it. We will protect and institute the good name that our parents left be-hind," she said.

"We will not betray the love that the millions of Filipinos have shown for our father and mother," she added.

Abellada assured her audiences that her brother would not make any decision that would destroy the trust of the Filipino people.

"Noynoy has his own mind. He will not be pressured. He trusts ev-eryone with respect so he will not be high-handed," she said.

Abellada, who has been cam-paigning for her brother in the provinces, said she wanted people to know Noynoy "as a person, as a brother and as republic servant."



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Querubin attends rallies through mascot

By Nikko Dizon

ROXAS, ISOK ANDYAN—AS IS UN-usual in Quezon City but that hasn't stopped mayoral candidate Gil Ariel Querubin from joining his party-mates in their campaign sorties.

Querubin, who is running for mayor under the Nacionalista Party al-though he is being held on reality charges at Camp Aguinaldo, has a limited meeting his coalition, drawing amusement from the crowds that gather at the party's "mini rallies."

"Hi-hi!" Ni-ni-noted-boxer Sen. Manuel "Pilo-silled out to the mas-ses as it made its way to an impro-vised stage erected in a vacant city in Barangay San Pedro yesterday.

A Querubin supporter has volun-teered to wear the lion and bunny costume representing Querubin, according to the rallyist's teenage daughter Faye.

Made of fiberglass, the mascot's head bears a remote resemblance to Querubin's. The mascot goes around to military-done blocs which is used on limited occasions, with an imitation blacked-of table hanging on its chest.

Villar, explained in the newsletter that Querubin was a homicidalist militant of three who is detained for fighting for reforms in government.

Querubin is a recipient of the Medal of Valor—the highest award given by the Armed Forces of the Philippines to its officers and men—after he reenlist-ed himself well in a battle against Mo-ro insurgents in Mindanao several years ago.

Querubin has been detained since February 2006 following an armed standoff between govern-ment troops and rebel soldiers at Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifa-cio accused of mounting a mutiny.

"They can jail my dad but they can't jail the masses!" Martin Leon, Queru-bin's nephew and spokesperson, told the hecklers in a text message.

"It's important for people to see dad, even through the masses, to remind them of what he's fighting for. I can't wait for the day when people can see him in person," Leon, a 22-year-old law student, added.

Leave kids out of ads, bishop tells candidates

By Kristine L. Alave

LEAVE THE CHILDREN ALONE.

This was the message of a se-nior Catholic prelate yesterday to politicians who use children in their campaign commercials.

Bacolod Archbishop Onofrio Cendaña said candidates for the May 10 national and provincial elections should stop using children in their ads, saying this was a form of exploitation.

"It's like child abuse," Cend-aña said in an article posted on the Catholic Bishops' Confer-ence of the Philippines (CBCP) website.

"I'm calling on the candidates to please stop using the chil-dren," he said. "That is against their rights. We should respect the children. Let them grow as-suming as human rights. They should not grow tainted by poli-tics."

Bishops should also stop using other marginalized sec-tors, like persons with disabili-ties and the poor, to stand for votes.

"They should stop this kind of politics," Cendaña said.

Most of the presidential candi-dates have ads on television, radio and print focusing on their achieve-ments but almost always feature chil-dren and marginalized groups.

Comelec to air own ads

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Com-elec) will roll out prime-time televi-sion ads ahead of the May 10 poll to educate voters on the use of the new ballots and ma-chines for the first-ever automated elections in the country.

Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal said the Com-elec and the De-partment of Fi-nance had agreed to give the major private television networks P500-million worth of tax credits in ex-change for placing the poll agency's ads in their prime-time programming.

"There is a dis-count for us and we will be paying through tax credits behind. They can use for importing equipment," Lar-razabal explained.

This was the first time the Comelec struck a deal with the major networks for a massive voter educa-tion campaign, Lar-razabal said. Bino-ro L. Abue

Killer quake triggers tsunami alert in RP

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) issued yesterday an alert for possible tsunami hitting the country following the magnitude 8.8 quake that hit Chile.

Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum told the lawmen that residents living on the eastern coastlines of the country should monitor the news reports on the possibility of a tsunami generated by the Chile earthquake.

"The eastern coastlines of the country are the ones exposed to tsunamis from the Pacific," Solidum said.

The tsunami alert, issued at 5:18 p.m. or less than 40 minutes after the earthquake struck in Chile, is standard operating procedure for the Phivolcs.

"This is to remind the public that there was a strong earthquake in another part of the world that could cause a tsunami. It would be best for the public to be prepared," Solidum said.

Strongest recorded in 1960

He recalled that in 1960, a magnitude 9.5 earthquake, the strongest earthquake ever recorded, hit Chile and caused waves as high as six meters to reach the country 24 hours before the waves lower our guard here.

Solidum said Phivolcs has not issued any alert for any evacuation of coastal areas.

A tsunami may be so low as one meter but Solidum said it is the volume of water coming to that will determine the force of the wave.

He said the Chile quake was not related to the recent twin Mindanao quakes and the 7.0-magnitude quake that hit Japan Saturday morning.

8.8 quake strikes Chile; 78 deaths and counting

From page A1

"We have had a huge earthquake, with many aftershocks," Bachelet said from an emergency response center. She urged Chileans not to panic.

"Despite this, the system is functioning. People should remain calm. We're doing every thing we can with all the forces we have, key information we will share immediately," she said.

More deaths

Bachelet earlier confirmed 47 deaths and said "without a doubt, with an earthquake of this magnitude, there will be more deaths." Telephone and power lines were down, making damage assessments difficult in the early morning darkness.

Chilean television and radio stations showed footage of buildings collapsed in the city of Curico and that there was damage to buildings in the historic center of the capital Santiago, about 320 kilometers north of the epicenter.

The capital's international airport was forced to close, a highway bridge collapsed and chunks of buildings fell into the street.

There were blackouts in parts of Santiago and communications were still down in the area closest to the epicenter.

In the 3 1/2 hours following the 390-second quake, the US Geological Survey reported 11 aftershocks, of which five measured 6.0 or above.

Bachelet urged people to avoid traveling in the dark, since traffic lights are down, to avoid causing more fatalities.

Chile's 2nd largest city

The quake hit 115 kilometers southwest of the capital, Santiago, at a depth of 35 kilometers at 3:34 a.m. (2:34 p.m. yesterday in Manila), the US Geological Survey reported.

The epicenter was just 115 kilometers from Concepcion, Chile's second largest city, and 90 kilometers from the ski town of Chillan, a gateway to Antuco volcano that last erupted in 1998 in a 1,950-earthquake.

In Santiago, modern buildings are built to withstand earthquakes, but many older ones were heavily damaged, including the Ministry Defense de Pensiones, on Bandera street, whose front collapsed. An apartment building's two-level parking lot also flattened under the ground floor, smashing about seven vehicles and leaving several dozen more damaged.

Deadliest quakes on record

Year	Location	Number of deaths	Magnitude
1556	China, Shaanxi	830,000	n/a
1737	India, Kolkata	300,000	n/a
1138	Syria, Aleppo	230,000	n/a
1920	China, Gansu	200,000	8.6
1290	China, Hebei	100,000	n/a
1927	China, Qinghai	100,000	n/a
1908	Italy, Messina	70,000	7.5
1923	Japan, Honshu	143,000	8.3
1932	China, Gansu	70,000	7.6
1948	Turkmenistan	110,000	7.3
1935	India, Quetta	60,000	7.5
1976	Tangshan, China	255,000	7.8
2004	Indian Ocean, Sumatra	227,898	9.1
1755	Portugal, Lisbon	60,000	n/a
1970	Peru, Ancash	66,794	7.9
1990	Iran, Gilan	40,000	7.7
1915	Italy, Avezzano	30,000	7.5
1908	Iran, Qazvin	12,000	7.4
1667	Caucasus, Shamakhi	80,000	n/a
1727	Iran, Tabriz	40,000	n/a
1693	Italy, Sicily	60,000	7.5
1783	Calabria, Italy	50,000	7.0
1805	Italy, Apennines	10,000	6.7
1857	Italy, Basilicata	11,000	7.0
1980	Italy, Irpinia	4,689	6.9
1693	Italy, Etna	60,000	n/a
1169	Sicily, Catania	15,000	n/a
1997	Iran, Ardabil	1,968	7.3
1667	Caucasus, Shamakhi	80,000	n/a
1727	Iran, Tabriz	40,000	n/a
1693	Italy, Sicily	60,000	7.5
1783	Calabria, Italy	50,000	7.0
1805	Italy, Apennines	10,000	6.7
1857	Italy, Basilicata	11,000	7.0
1980	Italy, Irpinia	4,689	6.9
1693	Italy, Etna	60,000	n/a
1169	Sicily, Catania	15,000	n/a
1997	Iran, Ardabil	1,968	7.3

Julio Alvarez told Radio Cooperativa in Santiago. "It was very loud, people were screaming, objects were moving, cell phones were not receiving calls ... we are appalled paralyzed. I was one of them."

Bachelet said the was declaring a "state of catastrophe" in 3 provinces of the country, and thus while emergency responders were waiting for first light to get details, it was evident that damage was widespread.

Several hospitals have been evacuated due to earthquake damage, she said, and communications with the city of Concepcion remained down. She planned to tour the affected region as quickly as possible to get a better look at the damage.

According to a 2002 census, Concepcion is one of the largest cities in Chile with a population of around 670,000.

Threat to distant coasts

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said the Chile quake generated a tsunami that may have been detected by stations the coast near the epicenter "and could also be a threat to more distant coasts."

It issued a tsunami warning for Chile and Peru, and a tsunami watch for Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica and Antarctica. (Chile's Navy said officials had lifted the tsunami warning for locations in Chile, local radio reported.

Chile's main copper-producing region and home of the world's largest copper mines are in the far north of the country (near to border with Peru, but there are also major copper deposits near Santiago. Officials said roads in the important Los Pelambres mine (west the capital were blocked.

Chile produces about 34 percent of world supply of copper, which is used in electronics, cars and refrigerators.

Biggest earthquake

In 1960, Chile was hit by the world's biggest earthquake since records dating back to 1900s.

The 9.5-magnitude quake devastated the south-central city of Valdivia, killing 1,655 people and leaving two million homeless. It sent a tsunami which battered Easter Island, 3,700 kilometers off Chile's Pacific seaboard and continued as far as Hawaii, Japan and the Philippines.

Saturday's quake shook buildings as far away as Argentina's Andean province of Mendoza and San Juan, it series of strong aftershocks rocked Chile's central region from 360 dots in southern to Valparaiso, about 800 kilometers to the north. *AP and Reuters*

Paco Market development preserves culture, saves Pasig River

From page A1

in whatever country I see it, whether a stall in Mexico or the Tsukiji fish market in Japan, [still] don't see the depth of that country's culture.

"We have nothing that has that. I feel sad that my children's experiences that kind of energy outside, but not in their own country."

Celebration

Last Feb. 22, Paco Market vendors and representatives of the national and local governments, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the military and Eagle Ridge Inc. for Brgy. Pasig (ERIPB) gathered at the market bridge.

The gathering was to celebrate the first time that the river was seen flowing beneath them had been rid of garbage.

The first of many steps in the Paco river plan to save the Pasig River has been achieved—1,000 families moved to a resettlement area in Calauan, Laguna, their shanties dismantled, and a major source of waste polluting the Estero de Paco removed.

Also, a garbage boom set side by side handling residents' wastes in one another, they dressed the eldest to refresh their homework had brought them, as well as the strength with which they embarked on the voters are inaugurating the river—plans—for the development of Paco Market.

According to ERIPB manager director Gina Lopez, the market and the voters are inseparably linked.

"You can't have a good market without a good context," she says. "We will rehabilitate the market, educate stall holders and vendors, and implement stricter market management so the wastes won't flow into the Pasig River anymore," she says.

Lopez says that the project should be viewed as a first step toward a larger objective. "There are 400 other markets in the country, most of which drain into creeks. If we can get this done, it will show the possibilities."

Bomb waiting to explode

While the redevelopment of Paco Market is only a small part of the ERIPB's Pasig River Rehabilitation project, it has a direct impact on the sustainability of the overall cleaning effort.

Describing the market's current state, Oliveros-Co says it's "a bomb waiting to explode."

"Structurally, not all parts are sound. It floods. The drains are clogged ... so the sewage is boxed into the river," she says.

Oliveros-Co has worked on many revitalizing projects—including the Human shop and the Trendy Mansion white line in Makati City—yet none has inspired her as this one.

"The excitement I [feel] is unique because it shifts between that of a designer and a teacher. Right now, so many children are limited to a 10-mile radius of Rockwell, Ortigas and Greenhills [in Makati], and it's sad.

"If we can redevelop the project into something that will cater to [children] A to Z because it's clean and safe, we would have made a positive contribution for generations of Filipino children."

Old and new

The historic structure will be restored as close as possible to its original condition, but will include the first of "green" architectures.

Natural and artificial lighting, ocean ventilation, proper water and waste management, and the use of architectural materials made from waste collected from the estero will be integral parts of the design plan.

And to encourage discipline and healthy competition, stall sizes will be standardized and products will be classified.

Once the structure has been renovated and extended to its 3,000 square meter size, the next challenge will be a "rehabilitation" of the mindset of the market's vendors and customers.

Olivares-Co explains the strategy which she believes will work: "Constant education, reminders and constant policing will be involved in the beginning. Yes, brava—if you see a candy wrapper, pick it up. Because if you start picking things up, you will not throw things that you will need to pick up later, right?"

The 350-million redevelopment is expected to take six months and will be implemented in phases as the funds are released.

The first phase will be funded by a P5-million donation of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to Paco Market and President Macapagal-Arroyo's earmarking of P30 million from the calamity fund.

The money will go toward helping the Pasig River Rehabilitation Project as a whole; P25 million will go to Paco Market, P5 million to the estero cleanup, and P4.6 million to the road [illegible] etc.

Partnership

Mr Arroyo attended the unveiling of the scale model of the redeveloped market, and touted the project as a way to show what the ERIPB and its dedicated partners have accomplished so far.

Soldiers, for example, have played a crucial role in cleaning up the Estero de Paco—providing manpower for the riprapping project, disposing of the debris gathered from the river, and relocating the residents set to be removed and protect them from harassment.

Maj. Gen. Benaldo Malaque, chief of the National Capital Region Command, says his men are happy to know that they are making a difference in the lives of the Paco market vendors.

"Most of the people here throw their garbage [any where]; they don't understand the largest impact. We tell them this is for their own good; if their environment is clean, they become healthy and [go to a stall] more productive," he says.

Malaque says the spirit of working together is "very contagious."

"The work is the area shows that Filipinos can do anything [by] being able to work as one in realizing a particular goal. The problems in the estero are a microcosm of what is happening in the country," he says.

The MMDA, too, has provided the heavy equipment needed to move both earth and people, and handled the difficult task of dismantling illegal structures on the waterway.

MMDA general manager Babel Natalaurin says it is the MMDA that has tasked the different "operations" together. "The presence of [the nongovernment organizations] is very important because it is apolitical. It [does away with] political differences and makes people understand things from a common point of view, a consensus minded."

Activity center

The future Paco Market will have an activity center for the community to enjoy.

Which the help of foundations and NGOs, small workshops for selling, reselling, resale and alternative healthcare (including Aduci), will be conducted daily.

For an authentic eating experience, diners will be a "palutan" and where one can bring freshly bought groceries and have it cooked the way one wants.

A special estate will be put up for the sale of products—from handbags to furniture—made from waste and recycled materials by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Project.

Some of these [local] along the estero for 40 years, and this will allow them to maximize their links with Paco even if they have moved away.

The market will be jointly managed by the ERIPB and the City of Manila, with Gina Lopez as project manager.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who is personally backing the project, believes that the positive effect of a renovated market will extend beyond the waterway itself.

"Other residents will, on their own, be compelled to clean up their surroundings so as to conform with the [cleaned] things going on," he says.

Domino effect

The vendors were initially apprehensive of the redevelopment plan, but only because they thought the market would be privatized and they would be charged higher rental fees.

When they learned that they would be given a beautified market, and at no cost, they threw their complete support behind the project.

Says Rose Conde, whose family has been selling chicken in the market since the 1950s: "Because vendors spend for rentals, [and] it was hard [for us], this is their second home. But the situation has deteriorated so much. There are illegal residents, there's so much crime and filth, that it's such a hard place to exist in living."

Rose is the hopes of many that a clean market will produce a domino effect: "If the environment is good, many customers will come, maybe even from other cities... With more customers, the income of vendors will increase and their children will go to school. They will also have more money to spend in the community so the city income will go up!"

Some vendors have shown support for the project with actions that speak louder than words.

Beening 22, is one of many embroiler vendors operating without a permit. He lives in the market with family members, all of whom have volunteered to help clean the area daily.

"I want to help the market and to help the other vendors here. When the market is improved, I may have a chance to own a stall, which will be better for business and for my family," he says.

Paradigm shift

A time capsule was placed during the unveiling of the scale model of the new Paco Market. In it are letters written by community members expressing their hopes and dreams.

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Better service seen with new passport facility

BEGINNING MARCH 4, APPLICANTS for Philippine passports will have to go there as the new state of the art consular building at Aseana Business Park on Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) announced Saturday it had started transferring its consular operations to the new 7,000-square-meter, four-story building a few blocks from the DFA main building on Roxas Boulevard.

Authentication services will be transferred to the new building on March 4 and all other passport operations on March 6.

The new building is part of the modernization program undertaken by Foreign Secretary Alberto A. Romulo.

An "intelligent building," the facility is equipped with fiber optic lines, CCTV cameras and other high-tech information and communications infrastructure.

According to Romulo, the Office of Consular Affairs building will set a new standard among government frontline offices, providing the public with fast, efficient and comfortable service.

"It is part of our mission for the Filipino people to receive world-class passport and consular services," Romulo said in a statement.

Romulo said clients could shorten their wait by accessing the DFA's online appointment systems. In addition, they now would only have to go to the consular office for their consular applications.

To ensure quick, comfortable service, passport applicants are advised to check passport requirements and secure an online appointment at www.dfa.gov.ph/consular-info, or to call the consular helpline number (02) 8344000 or 888 nd, ext. 882-4444000). Applications can also be filed with the DFA 13 regional consular and satellite offices.

Cynthia D. Balana

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Science Education Institute

OFFICIAL LIST OF QUALIFIERS FOR THE 2010 DOST-SEI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through the Science Education Institute (SEI) announces the names of the scholarship qualifiers for SY 2010-2011. The new scholarship awardees must seek admission in the identified fields of study at any of the state colleges and universities and DHEI-Centers of Excellence. Each qualifier shall receive a notice of award from the DOST-SEI or DOST - Regional Offices stating the date of orientation and contract signing. He/She shall report at the designated venue with a parent/legal guardian who must bring a 2010 Community Tax Certificate. The Legal guardian is required to present his/her affidavit of guardianship. The following are the qualifiers for the DOST-SEI Scholarship Program; also available at www.science-scholarships.ph):

RA 7687

[illegible]

'What next president must do to grow economy'

LEGAZPI CITY—A well-acclaimed economy-poverty researcher and columnist urged the national legislative sources that the next president should work in order to attain higher economic growth, a presidential economic adviser said.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, a top economic adviser of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the strategies would focus on two fronts—a 7-8 percent sustained economic growth rate followed by the reduction of poverty incidence by 24 percentage points among the middle class from 23 percent to 45 percent by 2015.

"Our natural gas, therefore, is the creation of a dynamic middle class that would be the sole beneficiary of a tax subsidy scheme that must be fair to the poor and to future generations," Salceda said.

He said that to achieve and sustain higher growth, the next administration would have to execute the following: Secure build, operate and transfer projects in peak-risk public infrastructure at the key risks strategic investments for global competitiveness; encourage domestic investment; improve capital expenditures and create targeted industrial policies.

He said the national savings rate stands at 30 percent versus an investment rate of 31 percent, which is broken down into public, 4 percent and private, 11 percent.

Such state of massive savings surplus has been experienced for the last six consecutive years, Salceda said.

"Our proof is this, of the PHP3 trillion in annual profits of the top 1,000 companies (now in 2009: 5700 billion was also made. Thus, increased business confidence should encourage domestic private consumption," he said.

Moreover, the country needs little foreign capital and what it needs is for sign enterprise/know-how/technology, access to markets and management expertise, he said, citing business process outsourcing, tourism, logistics and agribusiness as prime 4) investment destinations. After 6 decades, Legazpi remains Southern Luzon's

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OPINION

About-face

EARLIER THIS WEEK, SHE REITERATED HER party line: "The world embraced Edsa 1 in 1986. The world tolerated Edsa 2 in 2001. The world will not forgive an Edsa 3 but would instead condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable."

For some years now—from the time the country seemed to soothe with the kind of outrage that spells the end of presidencies—President Macapagal-Arroyo has been exhorting the country to forget People Power. As she relentlessly pursued impunity, whether in relation to questions about her 2004 mandate, or official deals, or military activities under her authority, or proposals to amend the Constitution for political self-interest, she seemed intent on walking the paths of executive indifference and active hostility to public opinion. These paths were supposed to have been closed off after the People Power revolts in 1986 and 2001.

EDITORIAL

The President argues that Edsa is not supposed to be partisan, a strange notion from someone who has poured the state's resources into her ruling coalition and who keeps trumpeting that accountability is merely a "numbers game." Even the more well-meaning proposals to establish "Truth Commissions" and to pursue other efforts to put an end to the great scandals of her nine years in power have been rejected. Instead, she thoroughly gutted the system.

And yet it is well to remember there is nothing the public has demanded that the President herself didn't solemnly pledge to uphold and represent.

In 2004, at the Edsa Shrine, the President pledged five things to the country:

1. "We must be bold to cut our national ambitions, so that our challenge must be that within this decade, we will win the fight against poverty." Instead the country got classroom shortage, the ministries on which were seized aside by means of double (even triple)-shifting in classrooms and those who have given up looking for work eliminated from unemployment statistics.

2. "We must improve moral standards in government and society, in order to provide a strong foundation for good governance." Instead she publicly applauded Jovito Palparan, and steadily refers to one of the most, if not the most, disreputable Cabinets in our entire history to enforce impunity for the many controversial deals her administration has entered into.

3. "We must change the character of our politics, in order to create fertile ground for true reforms. Our politics of personality and patronage must give way to a new politics of party programs and process of dialogue with the people." Instead, the country got paper bags filled with cash for congressmen, governors and mayors, plus patronage for parishes, and plenty of jobs for retired military brass.

4. "Finally, I believe in leadership by example. We should persevere amid traits such as work ethic and a dignified lifestyle, marching action to rhetoric performing, rather than grandstanding." In this she has unquestionably demonstrated a solid work ethic—but one devoid of ethics and an indifference to public norms, such as her many junkets and lavish lifestyle overseas.

In the end what has saved the President—besides the ruthless application of force, the ingenious re-interpretation of laws, and the generous spending of public funds—is the public's fear of another People Power putting in place another leader in the mold of President Arroyo. Combined with public doubts over the capacity of Vice President Noli de Castro to govern, the end result has been a public pining for hope on our public institutions—a public resource that provided the President with opportunities to cloak her impunity with procedural legitimacy.

The President hopes that by saying something often enough, that something will be believed by the people—a demonstration of her low opinion of those she governs and an enduring proof that she doesn't care what the whole world thinks.

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Concurrence and dissent

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

This decision was written by me—not the disappointment of at least one distinguished solicitor in this country, but until the approval of my colleagues on the Supreme Court. Some love who never see different[ly]. It has not, so far as I know, been resolved. Except by time.

EDSA, 2: THE QUESTION IS SOMETIMES asked in serious inquiry or in curious conjecture whether we are a nation of law or a nation of parties. Do we apply the law even if it is unjust or do we administer justice even against the law? Then quoted, we do not equivocate. The answer is that we do neither because we are a mean bush of law and of justice. We apply the law with justice because that is our mission and purpose in the scheme of our Republic. This case is an illustration.

The only question in the case, therefore, is the correct interpretation and application of the pertinent law as invoked, interestingly enough, by both parties. This is Article 1088 of the Civil Code providing as follows:

Art. 1088. Should any of the heirs sell his hereditary right to a stranger before partition, any or all of the co-heirs may be subrogated to the rights of the purchaser by reimbursing him for the price, provided they do so within the period of one month from the time the co-heirs were notified in writing of the sale by the vendor.

The petition before us is an illustration of the Holmes dictum that "hard cases make bad laws" to the petitioners obviously cannot reproach against the fact that there was really no notice given by the vendors or their co-heirs. Strictly applied and interpreted, Article 1088 can only lead to one conclusion, to wit, that in view of such deficiency, the 30-day period of redemption had not begun to run, much less expired in 1977.

This, we interpret and apply the law not independently of but in consonance with justice. Law and justice are inseparable and we must make them so. To be sure, there are cases here that while generally valid, may seem arbitrary when applied in a particular case because of peculiar circumstances. In such a situation, we are not bound because only of our duties and functions to apply them just the same, in obedience to the language. What we do instead is find a balance between the word and the law, thus [answer may be done soon as the law is obeyed.

As judges, we are not automatons. We do not and must not apply the law as it is worded, yielding like robots to the literal command without regard to its meaning and consequences. "Courts are apt to err by sticking closely to the words of a law," as we have asserted by Justice Holmes again, "when the words cannot a policy that goes beyond them." While we may not read into a law a purpose that is not there, we may read out of it ideas the reason for their enactment. In doing so, we defer not to the "brute that killeth" but to the "spirit that vivifieth" to give effect to the legislator's will.

Has there a valid notice? Granting that the law requires the notice to be written, would such a notice be necessary in this case? Assuming that there was such a valid notice although it was not in writing, would there be any question that the 30-day period of redemption had expired long before the complaint was filed in 1979?

In the face of the established facts, we cannot accept the private respondents' claim that they were unaware of the sales made by their brother and sister in 1963 and 1964. By requiring written proof of such notice, we would be closing our eyes to the obvious truth in favor of their palpably false claim of ignorance, thus evading the letter of the law once its purpose. The purpose is clear enough, to dedicate, once the redemptioners were duly notified. We are satisfied that in this case the other brothers and sisters were duly informed, although not in writing, of the sales made in 1963 and 1964 and that such notice was sufficient.

Here, when did the 30-day period of redemption begin?

We do not here declare that this period started on the days it started in 1963 and 1964 but do say that because those years and 1976, when the first complaint was filed, the other co-heirs were actually informed of the sale and that thereafter the 30-day period started running and ultimately expired. This could have happened anytime during the interval of thirteen years when none of the co-heirs redeemed the properties sold. In 1977, in other words, when Inés Pedro filed her complaint, the right of redemption had already been extinguished and the period for its exercise had actually expired.

The co-heirs in this case were undeniably informed of the sales although no notice in writing was given them. And there is no doubt either that the 30-day period began and ended during the 13 years between the sales in question and the filing of the complaint for redemption in 1977, without the co-heirs exercising their right of redemption. This is the justification for the exception.

Time limits merely constitute age. Justice defined justice as "the constant perpetual will to render every one his due." This wish constrains us maintain this Court when it assesses the facts and the law in every case brought to it for decision.

Kalaw dissents.

Kapunan, C.J., Bidin, Melencio-Herrera, Gutierrez, Paras, Feliciano, Padilla, Bidin, Sarmiento and Cortes, JJ. concur. Fernan and Feliciano, JJ. on leave.

Alonzo v. IAC, 150 SCRA 259

Mountaintop

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

IN THE STORY TO TOLD ABOUT A PROFESSOR who was giving last-minute instructions to his students on how to become successful in their medical professions. "One last thing, remember, prescriptions may be scribbled, but billing statements should be typed, OK?"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk 9, 28-36) Jesus is transfigured before the very eyes of Peter, James and John. Up to that point, the message about who Jesus is is still scribbled vaguely and not clearly typed out. Not only the disciples but often Jesus need to be affirmed on who and what He is. In Mt. Tabor, it becomes clear and definitive that He is the chosen Son.

* * *

From Jesus-needed-affirming moments in His life, there on for months like us. Such moments experience as to Mt. Tabor gave Jesus and His disciples not only the view but also the vision they needed for their mission. We too need to go up the mountaintop again and again to remind us who we are and what life really is all about.

* * *

Lent is the time to go up the mountain again—through prayer, sacrifices, penance and good works. Climbing mountains is not easy. It involves effort, discipline and perseverance. For people, it is learning one's comfort zones, getting out of one's way and former ways, toward a clearer view, toward broader horizons. One who has never been to the mountaintop has no right to speak, and has really nothing to say.

* * *

By the way climbing up Mt. Tabor nowadays can be done by car. The three-kilometer stretch can all be done in five minutes. It is quite a harrowing and daring experience. That is how they do it now in the Holy Land. But seriously, a mountain climb takes time; the mountain's climber will tell you that the summit is the reward, but the climb itself has its twists and turns.

* * *

In choosing our leaders, we must make sure that those leaders have a vision to elevate us because they themselves have gone to the mountaintop. In other words, let us choose leaders who have gone through trials, purification and real preparation for their tremendous and important task ahead. Yes, let us choose leaders who have made the walk and not those who just talk the walk.

* * *

In choosing our leaders too, let us also be cautious of those who promise to bring us to the mountaintop by taxi. I'm sure they will eventually get us there, being as on the carriage. There are no tunnels. Let us choose leaders who will really lead us, not leave us, leaders who will stand by us and not those who will steal from us.

* * *

Mountaintops are not forever. We do not stay on the mountaintop. We go down from the mountaintop and get back to the realities that await us. The vision should lead us to the mission. And the mission should lead us to a clearer vision. Vision and mission go together as we journey on. Those who have neither have only illusions and gratifications.

* * *

By the way, I am happy to note in today's Gospel that while Peter is talking about making three tents up in Mt. Tabor, "a cloud came and cast a shadow over them." We need clouds! We need rain! Let us all pray that it will rain in our country soon to avert more social sufferings, of our people as a result of the prevalent drought brought about by climate change. And yes, please choose leaders who care about the environment. Those who have damaged and sold our natural resources have no right to be in government.

* * *

Transfiguration is not a story and for all! but an ongoing thing. Any figure-watcher will tell you that keeping your figure or one's ideal weight is 24/7, something you do again and again. And there is not only one mountaintop, so we go on climbing mountains, until we reach the final mountaintop where we no longer need to go down for you there. And then, Yes, by God's mercy, hope to see you there, and then.

* * *

In the meantime, we are still here. For whatever reason, we are still alive. Maybe it is because we still have a mission in life. Life is the time for us to confront our own mortality (which is ours and certain) and to prepare for eternity. I am quite. Do you have an exit plan, and do you have an eternal plan?

* * *

Time does fly. Tomorrow will be March again. Will we still be around next March? Hope so. We don't know. Instead of worrying about that, let's just march on and carry out our mission, and be open to whatever God has in store for us. Remember, we are not on a journey on. For those who think they have everything mapped out, don't forget that God is a god of surprises.

* * *

Remember, climbing up a mountain is easier if you are lighter. Before a three-hour mountain ascent it is if you are overweight. Time for us to leave behind and discard excess baggage which we don't need for the journey. Not only material things, but also immaterial things like worries, heartaches, hurts, greed and pride.

* * *

A statement with the Lord:
Lord, help me not to stop climbing mountains and reaching mountaintops. Amen.

Help Comelec anyway

WITH ONLY 71 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY, A recession to fall instead rests in no longer doubt. I had to admit but, in this point, there is simply no more time to drift from assessment to full eventual bullishing. To woo our democracy, I am only hope that despite the many pitfalls besetting its automation program, the Commission on Elections can still productively conduct the May 10 automated polls and thereby enable Congress to proclaim the presidential winner on time.

But visible alternative. Like most people, I want our super sensitive and high-powered machine automated. Last year, I meticulously studied the Comelec-approved PCOS system; remained with several Comelec officials who, to the last, tried their best to explain the labyrinths of the program; and supported their implementation plans. However, due to unexpected events that have already tight timetables, material logistical nightmares and spotty preparations, Comelec—in my view—has not set out of time to perfect its automation project.

Even more regrettable is Comelec's failure to provide a tested replacement for the inevitability of a failed election for the presidency and other national offices. I am not referring to a nationwide failure of election (as of), which—the commission reportedly insists—will not happen. I refer to automation problems occurring on a much smaller scale, say, in those areas that are regarding for which would result in a failure to proclaim (no-pro) a winner in a tightly contested presidential election.

In states, if the margin of the leading presidential candidate over the second places is less than the number of uncounted ballots, there would be no time for a recount. It would absolutely annul the uncounted ballots are more than the margin of the leading candidate, no one could be legally proclaimed winner.

But today on Jan. 24, I reluctantly propose that this space that I usually would abandon automation and prepare for manual election. Set my proposal was not hewed. Now, with only 71 days remaining, Comelec—even if it wants to—no longer

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Pangalangan

has enough time to reconsider the election.

At the urging of the Supreme Court decision that nullified the automation of the 2008 Autonomous Technology Republic (now Comelec), I know that the poll body needs at least 90 days to prepare for a full manual election. That is why the Court promulgated its decision on Jan. 13, 2004 to give Comelec four months to shift to manual the May 10, 2004 elections. Now, even if it wants to, Comelec has run out of time to shift the coming polls to the full manual mode.

Coping with automation failures, then can are cope with the looming danger of a problem and no proof? I say let us lodge Comelec anyway for the anticipated pitfalls could be reduced to the minimum. Here are four specific suggestions on what citizens can do:

First, those concerned to help the poll body should comply with their respective functions faithfully. In the meantime, the current Hotel (which, at this point, has not been chosen yet) to deliver the election paraphernalia should be tech savvy and logistically ready. Its job is difficult, time-sensitive and complicated.

It must deliver—within three days before the election—the official ballots and the specially calibrated PCOS machine to the right precincts. Each of the 50 million ballots (assuming they have been correctly printed) and each of the 82,200 PCOS machines must be delivered on time to the correct precincts. Just pause for the correct towns under the care of the correct poll officer (a public school teacher). Otherwise, if the wrong ballots are delivered, the machine cannot read them. The ballots are but coded to be read only by the PCOS machine specially calibrated for that specific precinct.

Second, the poll watchdogs (PPCRV, Namfrel, Nasa, Leste, etc.) should be extra vigilant in performing their roles. They should carefully monitor every election entry and undertake parallel programs to safeguard the polls from further delays and glitches. For instance, random manual audit of the election results should be diligently performed.

Another example, PPCRV's voter education program should be intensified. Given the election technology, like Namfrel, should undertake separate but manual count—even on a delayed basis—to have an independent and credible verification of the automated count. In this way, its task "Garci" could be minimized and prevented from manipulating the results.

Third, pray that the margin of victory of the winning presidential candidate would be sure whelming, say 25 percent (six million votes) over the second place. In this way, failure of election (no-poll), as say 18 percent of the country—would not result in a presidency no-pare. The closer the margin between the two leading presidential candidates is, the more likely a failure of proclamation would be. Conversely, the larger the gap is, the less likely a no-pare would happen.

Finally, pray that the consequences of a failed election, in my list, 31 and 5th, 7 columns, I wrote about President Macapagal-Arroyo becoming holdover president, acting president, and thereafter prime minister. Our systems may resolve this script and thereby quite people protest. Worse, military adventurers may seize the reins of government using the constitutional policy that the "armed forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and of the State." Under this scenario, legal barriers will be ignored, for "when guns speak, laws are silent," had the attorney colleagues.

* * *

Comments are welcome at: thefjacinto@gmail.com, lsa@hotmail.com

Enemies of the state

THEY ARE CALLED THE 43.

The government would have us believe they are killers, agents of a sprawling network of terrorists, the anti-shinging, bus-burning, rubble-rousing enemies of a law-abiding citizenry. To the gentlemen of the armed forces, the scourge of rest and detention of 43 lawyers and women in Mustang, Bohol is the biggest triumph of military intelligence against communist rebels since they

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

funded in Rizalde Simeone and the rest of the New People's Army's Central Committee in 1969.

The 43 would have us believe the 43 are health workers, servants of the people, doctors, nurses and midwives taking methotrexate and leaps to the barrios multitrucks left to bleed by an indifferent government. The saga of the 43 would have us more strike against democracy during an administration condemned for allowing the torture, murder and abduction of hundreds of activists and journalists.

The back jumps, fist to set, finger to trigger, left to right. This is the result, says the plastering activists. Listen to the facts, says the government in fingers that it is quick to use for emphasis and serious headlines and opinion. For democracy and country, for rights and liberty.

"We received information that there was an NPA training. This was a product of many years of intelligence buildup by our intelligence units," says Maj. Gen. Jorge Segovia, commander of the Armed Infantry Battalion, under whose custody the 43 remain.

There is evidence, says the AFP, explosives and firearms were found in their possession. Planted, says the left, bigotry dashes his head. "They will always say it is planted."

Confirmation have been obtained, says the AFP Listen to Salvation Pandino, one of the 43, admitting before the Philippine media he and the rest were members of the NPA, Dilated under torture, says the left. His mother Alexandra claims Pandino told her he was being beaten into confession.

They are just doctors, say the families. Precisely, says the AFP Every central unit of the NPA is accompanied by a medic or even operations. Base on NPA medics, trained to support their fighters in battle.

Such and such, goes the argument, one truth cavers another, and yet, both claims hold side by side, there is one glaring inconsistency. After weeks of announcing these 43 are members of the NPA, that intelligence has been checked and confirmed, that they are "caught in the act" terrorist—actually, all that has been filed against the 43 are three counts of illegal possession of firearms, three counts of violations of the Commission on Elections gun ban and one count of illegal possession of explosives. Armed rebellion is a crime, and still no rebellion charges have been filed. It implies that the much-touted intelligence is not the one that will stand in the court of law, notwithstanding allegations dependent on confessions after the 96. it said.

Instances of torture have been narrowed and denied by both sides. Families talk of electrocution, incommunication, sleep deprivation, harassment, beatings, interrogations and subsidence neglect. The military claims style is all propaganda. "Under international humanitarian law, torture is not allowed." They were denied lawyers, say families. No one asked for counsel, says AFP Back and forth, goes the argument, claim versus claim.

At the intersection are basic contentions. Many hours of blindfolding and cuffing, the medics defined by the Commission on Human Rights. Cuffing, says Segovia, is a matter of judgment by the arresting officers. There has been no denial as to the blindfolding, even several admissions from the AFP And yet under RA 9745, the Anti-Torture Law, blindfolding is itself a form of torture.

Families claim sexual harassment. Jane Salleo's mother says her daughter was harassed, that soldiers saw and touched her private parts. The AFP denies it. "Even Jane Salleo denies it."

Again that intersection of truths. Bullets says she does not believe she was sexually harassed, but says soldiers pulled down her underwear and washed her privates while she did her business in the open. Segovia says the same thing in the same. Segovia admits it, but says it is justified. Not a single member of the military touched any detainee without the detainee's invitation. Detainees would be handcuffed to restrict their security and that of their allies.

"It is understandable that [they could not] intervene themselves in every instance to protect the privacy of the detainee." But logistic, it is out of the goodness of the soldiers' hearts that they even aid the detainees in the exercise of their personal functions.

This is the culture of all AFP duties. If they wanted to protect the privacy of detainees, they failed utterly. Segovia is right, the detainee has a choice whether to ask for aid—the great big chasm between stopping on your pants and asking for someone to unzip and wash. The fact that a blindfolded detainee is compelled to ask a stranger to pull down her panties and wash her vagina is harassment in itself. The Philippine General Hospital could not have answered the question of sexual harassment. It is no excuse to claim only females wash females, and males wash males, and it is even unnecessary to bring up the possibility of homosexual soldiers handling some suspected communists—I—It this is opposed national policy in the treatment of detainees in the custody of the armed forces, the Magdalo soldiers who used to occupy the same barracks have been methodically done so.

This is not to say there is no truth behind the AFP's claims that those in their custody are members of the New People's Army, hopeful a right to that the NPA thereof is very real. Children have been killed in the crossfire. Families have been detained. Local government officials have been ordered to leave or accused are not applicable to suspected members of the NPA. It does not excuse those charged with upholding the law to break them. That alleged crime is the illegal possession of firearms, much less explosives. The list consists of multiple unregistered weapons from Danny Mayor's feudal inquisition. A. And yet we do not hear Ingrid Fortun bashing that he was denied access to his client. We never see Augustus Idealdid. And of the dozens arrested in recent months for illegal possession of firearms, none have howled about military hands running down the rendered their asses.

Segovia is right. The operation is a success. Advocates claim this is a failure of democracy. In a propaganda war, where claim collides with claim, it is only the structure of the law that permits the possibility of justice. It is that rule that prevents an innocent man—and a guilty one—from being swayed like an animal, the same law that separates the soldier from a terrorist who believes he is God.

* * *

Comments are welcome at: patricia.evangelista@gmail.com

Pia in action

AT LARGE

Nina Jimenez-David

reading the Magna Carta of Women, as well as those on health and the environment.

Described in her own words as "the youngest woman elected in the history of the Philippine Senate, a lawyer, triathlete and mother of two," Pia is living up to her campaign slogan of a woman one she grows a sense of purpose and commitment. Yes, even wear a costume to a suit

* * *

HOSTING Batasan is adventure enough for the tyro senator, providing views and experiences far removed from the usual Philippine vacation spot. Her joining a photo safari to Batasan adds a layer of experience that can transform one's memories of this remote group of islands from the merely pretty to the historic.

I had the chance to join a Batasan "Photo Safari" organized by photographer Mandy Navasero a few years back, and though I didn't bring a camera with me, the three days we spent traveling to fifteen islands and negotiating the narrow, bumpy roads on a jeepney are among the most memorable of my life.

I may not have been able to take photos, but I can memorize the pictures in my mind at any moment, remembering the incomparable views, the high winds, the bone-tide water-choppy waters, the upset bosoms of stone and thatch, and finally, the hideous but lovely monsoon on seeing for the first time, maximizing the color potential of pictures, and how to add life and verve to otherwise humdrum scenes.

Join us now for the vacation season, Mandy is set to go to Batasan with others scheduled March 19-22, April 1-3 and April 23-26, while she has organized a new photo safari in Coron, Palawan from May 15-18.

This year's adventures in Batasan include leisure and exposure trips on home culture and heritage, photo lectures, and demo session on portraiture, fashion, architectural, abstract and documentary photography.

An "Immersion Road Ahead" at the Chavayan Bed to School and at the Womens Hour will be conducted by participants in honor of Gig Dra holder, a participant in 2007 who passed away when she was just 18 years old, who loved books and campaigned for Batasan Books to be given away courtesy of the Gig and the Amazing Sam, pupils Foundation Inc. and Books Across the Sea, to encourage children to love reading and hopefully contribute own library.

* * *

AN ORIENTATION on photography and how to operate digital cameras will be held a week before each departure. For Batasan, a day of P25,000 per person, inclusive of a roundtrip ticket, three nights a day and three nights' hotel and accommodations, nine to eight meals, will be charged. The for-size covers two meals served in "Mardleen Hills" and Mooring Beach, land and boat transportation, tour guides, lectures, entrance fees to reserved areas, photography lectures and demos.

For the trip to Coron, accommodations will be at the Mt. Tapyas Hotel, with trips to Calauit Island, where the term "photo safari" is quite apropos since the island terrain with African animals; Banana Island, snorkeling at Siete Pecados; and Kayangan Lake, another "not to be missed" photographic sight.

Interested parties may put the deposit directly in Sir Trust Bank Tower Inc. S/A 110-190077-9, San Andres, Malate Branch, and fax a copy of the deposit slip with name and contact numbers to 894-3288. Information: Mandy Navasero, or call 0917 1776", email mandynavasero@yahoo.com; www.mandynavasero.multiply.com or drop by Suite 606 at the Serapion Building at 2170 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila or call 526-8301 or e-mail nice_nvd@yahoo.com.

Greek lessons for Europe

WORLD VIEW

Joschka Fischer

TO WHOM THE TIDE GOES OUT THAT FOR find out whether boat-swimming naked," the legendary investor Warren Buffet aptly remarked when the global economic crisis hit. And, as we have learned during recent months, this is not true for countries as it is for companies. Following Ireland, Greece is now the second euro-zone member to have gotten into massive payment difficulties due to the crisis, at least to the point of national bankruptcy.

Ireland's difficulties were home problems by it self, through a countervailing policy that was painful but self-limiting. It could do so because its runaway asset from its excessive debt burden following the collapse of an asset bubble, was basically sound.

The situation in Greece is different. A resumed saving of the economy will be much more difficult, because it will have to be more far-reaching. The fiscal deficit that must now be redressed is inflated not just from internal financial imbalances, but also from a deliberate opposition that for too long a time has been in denial of reality, allowing the country to live beyond its means.

Nevertheless, the European Union can neither allow Greece to slide into national bankruptcy nor hand it over to the International Monetary Fund, since the euro-zone's other members, namely, Portugal, Spain and Italy—would probably be next in line to be attacked by the financial markets. In that case, the euro would be in danger of falling, for the first time seriously imperiling the existence of the European Union as a whole.

The real problem at the heart of the Greek crisis is to grow because it invokes the fundamental weakness of the euro: its lack of support by a governmental policy. The cap on member states' budget deficits and public debt imposed by the Maastricht Treaty proved to be insufficient. Greece is the first one in the real world, and the same is true for the monitoring tools linked to these limits. In any case, the Maastricht rules were never designed for a

problem like the one triggered by the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September 2008.

The euro, which turned out to be the optimal tool for defending European interests in this crisis, will now be subjected to an endurance test driven by the old political logic of its construction. Europe's leaders—first and foremost Germany and France, which will play the deciding role—must act quickly and put through new, imaginative solutions. This will not come cheap, and Brussels will need substantial political risks. But, given a global economic environment that promises some reasonable growth in the coming years, things could otherwise get very tough very soon.

The solutions that Europe's leaders provide must go beyond Maastricht, but without triggering new institutional debates, which would lead to nowhere. Moreover, new instruments like Eurobonds will have to be made available in order to reduce the affected euro zone countries' interest burden, provided that they have taken serious steps—subject to effective control mechanisms—to reduce their own borrowing.

The current crisis has, however, also shown that the Council of Finance Ministers (Ecofin) is unable to assert such control over EU member states' fiscal policies. The direct leadership of heads of state and government is needed, at least in those member states' crises.

The sign of hope is that, following the recent France-German summit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the first time did not publicly oppose the idea of a European economic government. Spelling out such a body's structure, costs, decision-making procedures and control mechanisms can quickly as possible is now the order of the day. Indeed, there's no time to lose.

But even with one, two, or three steps forward, the German and French governments will be taking great political risks domestically if the euro crisis in the Mediterranean worsens and a financial bubble there becomes necessary to save the common currency. The populations in the countries that will have to foot the bill are unprepared for the reality check ahead of them, adding fuel to a years-long quench in Euro-skepticism, which now pervades all political camps. This applies in Germany, as well, making it very likely that we will see an extremely large political problem emerge there in the near future.

Pay for the world's European countries or is that overall in the end of the euro? The question is one to make clear what this crisis is about: the history of the European project. At the same time, muddling through—a typically European answer that limits political risk while not really changing anything—will be difficult, because the consequences of the global economic crisis have not yet finished unfolding in Europe.

What is necessary now is numerous like leadership—and even more so statesmanship like leadership. Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy are facing the defining challenge of their respective careers. Either they must navigate the European ship safely through this storm. Only courageous thinking and action will enable them to steer clear of the rocks. (Project Syndicate/Institute of Human Sciences)

* * *

Joschka Fischer, a leading member of Germany's Green Party for almost 20 years, was Germany's foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 until 2005.

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Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

CHINA-ASEAN FREE TRADE DEAL

Implications for Philippine industries

By Rolando M. Alibalo

JAN. 1 MARKED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE China-Asean Free Trade Agreement (Cafta) simultaneous with the starting up of the Asean Economic Community (AEC). Cafta represents the world's third largest free trade agreement in terms of trade volume after the European Union and the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), and the largest by population at 1.8 billion.

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) have a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of $6.8 trillion and total trade of $4.3 trillion (23 percent of world trade). Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Asean and China amounted to $167.3 billion (10 percent of the total).

In the past decade, trade between the two exploded. Their total trade reached $192.5 billion in 2008 from $39.5 billion in 2000. To date, China accounts for 11.3 percent of Asean's total trade, overtaking the United States as its third largest partner after Japan and the European Union. With its increasing presence, Cafta could help China contribute to Asean's political and economic power in the region.

With the slowdown in the United States and the European Union, Cafta shifts focus on Asean and China, a region with increasing growth potential. Cafta is a signal that Asean is open and together with the AEC, it can lay the foundation so the countries can trade more final goods with each other. This may also serve as a basis for future Asian integration.

Under Cafta, tariffs are expected to be eliminated on 90 percent of products ranging from textiles to rubber, vegetable oil and steel between China and the Asean 6 (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore). Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam will follow in 2015. Import duties will be removed on 6,683 Chinese products. Average tariffs are reduced to 0.6 percent (from 9.8 percent in Asean and 13.8 percent in China).

Trade between Asean and China remains largely of raw materials, parts and components and intermediate and semi-finished products that China assembles for export to the United States and the European Union. With the latter's weak recovery, the near-term benefits from cheaper imports and exports via the agreement might be limited.

However, investors believe that after a year of sharp economic slowdown, Cafta will likely provide a strong boost to trade and investment in the region through China's infrastructure spending strong with the final stimulus spending and improving domestic demand in the Asean countries.

Gains

The Asean countries are expected to gain from the export of cheaper intermediate goods and raw materials to China in the short run and export of final goods once China's domestic consumption increases.

China will benefit by having a steady source of cheaper raw materials and commodities and exporting goods to the Asean countries. Asean will also benefit through China's greater expected FDI flows. At the same time, with improved markets and lower market risks and uncertainty, more foreign investments are expected not only from China but also from the rest of the world, Europe and Japan.

Not everyone is enthusiastic about the deal. The Economist (Jan. 7, 2010) says the agreement is "more breadth than depth." The benefits might be exaggerated since tariffs have been falling for years and facilitating a freer China-Asean trade. Due to its poor and uncompetitive infrastructure, the Philippines will not be greatly affected since tariffs on those products are already almost zero.

Exclusion list

Moreover, every country has an exclusion list in which tariffs can still apply such as beans in Brunei, popcorn in Indonesia, snowboard boots in Thailand, motorcycles in Malaysia and rice for export to China. Without a regional mechanism to address disputes, there are doubts whether the trade deal will successfully achieve the promised gains.

China's manufacturing accounts for 40 percent of its GDP. It exports mostly electronics, machinery textiles, optical photographic and medical equipment, and furniture. It is also one of the world's major producers of oilseeds, cotton and other fibers, rice, corn, fruits, soybeans, vegetables, tea and pork. With these strengths, many firms fear Chinese competition.

Opposition

Opposition to the trade deal has been loudest in Indonesia where protestors urge the government to delay the implementation of Cafta (see resources).

How will the trade deal affect the Philippines? Our average tariffs are already low with many items having an 0.8 percent and agri-culture at 11.2 percent. About 55 percent of our tariff lines are clustered around the 0- to 5-percent tariff levels and about 29 percent are found in the 5- to 10-percent levels.

There are the ones that will be exposed to immediate competition. The Philippines has committed to expose 100 percent with China about 97 percent of our exports consist of parts and components whose tariffs are mostly zero. Likewise, 65 percent of our imports are manufactured goods and machinery/equipment whose tariffs are also low. Hence, for these products, the short term impact at the margin might be small.

The medium to long-term impact is expected to be higher once the tariff walls are set high. By presumed exposure of tariffs from 30 percent to 40 percent some down. Currently, these goods are temporarily shielded from Chinese competition through the sensitive (SL) and highly sensitive (HSL) list regime.

HSL products include hams, onions, garlic, mandarin oranges, broccoli, carrots, turnips, cassava, sweet potatoes, rice, cane sugar, sheatnuts, blended preservatives, tobacco, medicinal and aromatic plants, mushrooms, cacao seeds, live and parts of bovine animals, fish products, coconut products, pepper, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, mangoes, battery grades, blankets, table linen, footwear, boats, sound signaling equipment, ignition wiring sets and other car parts.

Asean trade with China 2004-2008

(Value in US$ bn; 2008)

Country	2004	2008
Brunei	393	0
Cambodia	12	13
Indonesia	6.806	11.452
Laos (PDR)	1	13
Malaysia	9.034	16.422
Myanmar	75	400
Philippines	4.803	8.487
Singapore	15.323	29.082
Thailand	7.068	15.30*
Vietnam	2.171	6.89*
Asean Export	**11.367**	**19.308**
Brunei	82	111
Cambodia	102	602
Indonesia	4.139	15.240
Laos (PDR)	89	128
Malaysia	11.765	18.648
Myanmar	314	617
Philippines	3.408	4.298
Singapore	15.139	28.349
Thailand	8.183	19.808
Vietnam	4.441	15.548
Asean Import	**17.714**	**127.114**
Brunei	166	(978)
Cambodia	(570)	(871)
Indonesia	630	(3.871)
Laos (PDR)	(88)	(116)
Malaysia	(2.730)	(224)
Myanmar	(241)	(743)
Philippines	(5)	1.211
Singapore	(816)	(2.766)
Thailand	(1.885)	(4.505)
Vietnam	(2.230)	(11.564)
Balance of trade	**(6.348)**	**(107.806)**

Prepare for competition

Doing nothing and declaring at the 11th hour that we are not ready is not a good idea. The transition period must be used effectively and strategically to prepare our sensitive industries for future competition against China. The answer has ever shied them from competition through exclusion lists.

Free trade agreements (FTAs) are not all about import competition. China can have access to them. They can share the export benefits and tariff and higher profits that could arise from larger markets and removal of trade barriers.

FTAs will be beneficial as our industries only if they are able to take advantage of the preferential access opportunities offered.

Entering the export market is not easy and only the best firms can succeed. Hence, granting our domestic firms for the export market will be crucial. We need government to play a more active role.

First, by providing all the necessary support to strengthen competitiveness and by lowering the cost of doing business.

Restructuring

Second, by getting ready for the restructuring process once firms are exposed to competition. This process will inevitably lead to temporary job losses because the death of inefficient firms is at the same time, new jobs will be created as new firms respond to the export incentives.

Removing firms that have no chance of survival in the face of stiff domestic competition should be avoided. Rebates and programs geared toward facilitating the exit of inefficient firms and entry of new ones should be prioritized. If strategically phased and well coordinated by regulatory agencies, FDIs could bring gains through the creative destruction process that gives birth to more dynamic and competitive firms. Cafta could serve as a catalyst for the restructuring.

Rolando M. Alibalo is a senior research fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

Engaging the dragon: How will RP benefit from it?

By Errol Ibunes and Joseph Francia

CHINA IS THE NEW "FULCRUM" of the global economy. Goaded on by Marco Polo the sleeping dragon of Asia, it is now wide awake and dashing to promote itself across the globe.

For instance, during the recent financial meltdown, China's reassuring role has been duly noted and appreciated by some world leaders. But as a result of opening up its economy to the rest of the world, global trade has increased many times over.

Hub

As a source of cheap labor, China has virtually become the hub of the new factory Asia—assembling and producing various commodities for sale to the world, many if not all of them, bound to supermarkets in many countries.

The relationship of the Philippines and China has been corrosive-old and had been actively pursued by both sides purely on serving their economic and trade interests—probably the reason why both countries will always have a special economic relationship. Definitely, the Philippines is no China's agenda and vice versa.

Raw materials

China is hungry for raw materials, minerals and energy to support its development and economic modernization programs. Because of its proximity, the Philippines is seen by China as a source of the inputs that it needs as well as a market for its products and services.

The Philippines, on the other hand, is focused on China's huge markets for its goods and services and much less on a source of the inputs it needs.

Given the dynamics of Sino-Philippine economic relations, how will it go forward? Can it become mutually beneficial?

Prospects, challenges

Trade between China and the Philippines was overwhelmingly one (the latter) especially during the last 15 years). Even before then, it was considered that trade would be increased since China adopted an open door policy in 1979.

However, trade between the two countries was favorable to China, except for 1977 when the Philippines was relatively running economic development and modernization programs, especially in agriculture.

The balance of trade is not favorable for the Philippines counting between 2002. However, in an Asean-wide perspective, data from the Asian Development Bank for 2008 showed that Philippine trade with China underperformed when compared with five other Asean members' trade with China.

As far as the area of trade, the single most important event recently affecting relations between the Philippines and China is the China-Asean Free Trade Agreement (Cafta), without signaling the fact that there are issues, for example, in the banking, retail and tourism sectors which both countries have agreed to develop and expand.

While other researches and papers on this issue have cited the year scheduling advantages of this relationship, we will focus more on the challenges so we can craft policies to overcome them. Aside from an inconsistent trade-policy regime, one of the greatest challenges of the country is smuggling.

In the agricultural sector alone, farmers and small businesses operators are complaining about the deluge of Chinese potatoes, onions, garlic, carrots, broccoli and some leafy vegetables, which heavily dampen the demand for their products.

They are even surprised that imported goods from China are much cheaper, even if freight and logistical costs are taken into account. This is likewise happening in the domestic manufacturing sector, where Chinese garments, shoes, plastic and steel products are flooding the market, diminishing domestic producers' market share.

Given the higher cost of doing business in the Philippines, there is no way that domestic producers will be able to compete with Chinese goods.

Data from both countries reveal contrasting import and export figures. (*See Tables 1 and 2.*)

With regard to the export data of China and the import data of the Philippines, the discrepancy is believed to represent the value of smuggled-in goods which enters illegally the Philippines through both outright and such usual smuggling, the use of various airports, seaports and unguarded areas along our extensive shoreline.

Interestingly, the gap between China's data on China's export from us and Philippine data on our export to China is ever-increasing. One wonders how this is so. It is worth noting that smuggling has existed even (though) under the going down.

The same discrepancy although exists worldwide level, and only on Philippine imports, was touched by Dr. Victor Abola (2004) in a research paper done under the auspices of the University of Asia and Pacific-Competing International Monetary Fund and Philippine data for 1992-2003, he concluded that the exports of the rest of the world (ROW) to the Philippines were substantially greater than the actual imports of the Philippines from ROW. Although small at first, the difference grew larger over time.

Way forward

In dealing with China, we need to determine our strategic direction for trade for it is because beneficial for both countries. There are many recommendations e.g. lower cost of doing business that we have cited but we are enough.

First, on the offensive side, our commercial attaché should track the trade and investments of China with the Philippines (and vice versa) and the other Asean countries in specific products and sectors, rather than be general in approach, and hence less effective.

Second, on the defensive side, our government should actively enforce product standards. Example, we need to strengthen our Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) to serve the purpose of guarding our consumers against inferior and toxic agricultural imports from China.

Huk smuggling

Third, enforce laws on smuggling because it has, in economy ways, crippled many industries and millions of jobs have been lost. Bilateral trade with China should include cooperation on how to halt smuggling.

Fourth, because of the increasing competitiveness of China, it will be more difficult for the Philippines to continue to export in its traditional markets like the United States and the European Union. It is, therefore, imperative for the Philippines to become more competitive, to look for new markets and to find niches where it will have a comparative advantage.

In the end, the opportunities of a booming China are there. We cannot avoid hugging to deal with China. But its efforts a huge market for Philippine products and services and the Philippines should take advantage of that. But bear in mind that trade must be pursued in the name of national development and not just.

(The article is an abridged version of the research paper "Engaging China: Seeking Equity and Balance in Bilateral and Regional Economic Relations with Asia's Biggest Dragon," by Joseph Francia and Errol Ramos of the Bar Discussion Alliance (Bar Book).)

INQUIRER Mindanao

John Jan Bandayrel
Davao Chief Miss R. Alcantara

Above treetops, a zip-line thriller

By Rosa May de Guzman
Lake Sebu, South Cotabato

RARING TO GET HER FIX ON THE DAY OF Hearts, Jane Agreda, 38, pursued her husband Stoney and their four school-aged children out to an adventure that has become a tourist attraction for locals and foreigners on holiday in South Cotabato.

"For a change, we'd spend the 9-day away from fancy places catering to couples, so I pushed my husband to drive here, to get our first dose of high-thrills and inspiritus," she said.

The couple waited for their turn among the line of young and old ready to conquer their fears.

"Sorry, but we only allow two persons with a combined weight of 170 kilogram-every ride," one the crew Jane and Stoney weigh over 170 so their "extreme date-night" was put at risk, making their daughter, instead, take the swap on safety harness and helmet.

Jane and Harpun, 12, climbed a wooden bridge to the platform for the ride, but before their turn came, they lagged 20 minutes in the vicinity.

Stepping off the platform, both bobbed down like cloned robots. When, finally, they were hooked up to the cable, the crew conveyed safety talk, including advice of the harness, price departure and during landing.

Paying no heed on her hyperlying face, Jane looked down to her husband. "I can do this. Inspire! No worries, please!"

"On the zip, you will blaze one of the greens at a maximum speed. Hang on," a crew member says.

Adrenaline junkies

"Line, here, there," he yelled at he stalled to free the harness that ensure zero adrenaline junkies whose hearts were pumping to the desired height they wanted to beat.

"Whoooo! Oh my ... gosh!," the medium-built Jane shrieked in falsetto. Her daughter screamed, "Mammaaaa" almost without end, rushing across the tree-shrouded and falls-laden hills.

The initial zip at 3 seconds gained stillbirthy, but the duo's mood grew steadier as the descend began creeping up to their height for the 700-feet drop flings, their screams nearly drowned like high-pitched hum of a metal crank grinding along 1/4 inch cable above them.

Their bodies extending, hands dropping, feet raging in the gush of rainy winds, they flew at 120 kilometers per hour toward a hardly visible spot in the distance.

Jane and Harpun, tickled through a carpet of trees and bushes as they token of green, hill-walking trails and the aged 2, 3, 4, 5 hills separated up at their feet with no obstacles to break the spell in an area inhabited by bird-monkeys, butterflies and lizzards.

For first entry first zip, Jane looked down and marveled at the scenery. "Oh God, you're truly amazing!"

They cleared down and rocked to a stop, but were set to do it again at the other tower.

"It's all amazing so fast that it's hard to hold on. If only I could stop screaming, I would," Jane said.

"The first ride took only 30 seconds, but why rush it? The crew suggested a slower ride with an appropriate wind breaker to slow down the speed in order to better appreciate the sights.

On the second zip, their ride was more cross, falls, hills, falls and falls—the sight of the gushing four falls below. It's over, 0-only in 15 seconds.

"I just told my daughter not to worry about your acrophobia, don't look down when you're too at ease," she said at their suspension.

This is the Seven Falls Zip Line. The high thrill set in cross-skimming the mountain wild of the lakeside villages of Lake Sebuan and Lake Lahit to Lake Sebu, considered the summer capital of the volcanic province of South Cotabato because of its temperate weather.

Zip-lining is a sport that requires floating through the thick forest while linked to a network of solid wires strung between trees. And the mountaintops of Lake Sebu provide the perfect stage for a zipping adventure.

The zip line only operates along the second falls up to the fifth since the first, sixth and the seventh falls are 1.2 km off the line falls.

The Seven Falls is a series of river plunge along the mountain forests of Lake Sebu.

"You are up here in the Seven Falls," said the crew "but we assure you that it's going to be a unique experience," he assured earth-bodies rider.

One of the 15 crew of the zip line, Ramon Dungon, said no athletic ability was needed here. The harness straps around the back, chest, legs, and hooks onto the wood trolley.

Ahead of the Agreda, Bernadette Flores, a 11-year old hillsbyan from Barrun, touring the town with her US thirsty dad and a development worker mom, life-line-off and flies down the line.

"Woooooohhoooooo!" Flores taunted to the other platform.

"The first zip was cool! I can do this the second time around. But you know, I've never done this before, but as soon as my dad completed what we're going to do, I said, 'I'm all for it!' I'll push my friends back home to try this some summer."

In between, the zip line hits the speeds of 100 kph. The dual zip lines, one measures 700 meters and the second, 800 meters, strung were mountains, trails and seven falls at 700-feet drop—the second hooker among zip line operators in terms of height.

The duet of descent, the length of cables and the steadymatic form all go to the speed and length of the ride.

Added amenities hang over the zip line, such as the trolley, bridges, rest rooms. Soon they have laid down the foundations for zip-line touring in Lake Sebu, the provincial government is already looking to expand and enhance the experience.

In the next months, there are plans to open the three existing trails as cable cars, a gazebo, stick insect and butterfly farms, and nature and bird-watcher watching in their own sanctuary as the new adventures outpost.

High-in-the-sky

Lake Sebu's zip lines provide thrills for young and old alike, as long as the riders have no fear of heights.

Jane said you have to be intimately involved with the cable to endure to achieve bliss.

Jane wasn't expecting to be screamed, but it turned out to be a blast —and so were the reactions of others. "I've felt completely safe," Jane says.

The oldest person to take the zip is an 87-year-old man while the youngest is a 16-month baby.

"We can take anybody across," Hongson said.

And since you've imbibed the zip line, it's easy to understand its aspiration in this part of the globe.

Thanks to the Seven Falls Eco-Tourism Development Project, one of South Cotabato's flagship projects, the zip line is rapidly becoming part of Mindanao's excursions.

"We're riding on it right now," Dungon said. "This has become our main livelihood, since with the others who live within the vicinity."

The idea came when tourists swarmed to see more of the seven falls in one view. Then, the provincial government heeded the call and tapped Soobitan Cable Car Tours to package the zip line for P3.4 million.

And they delivered and brought in the equipment, plus the training of the crew—trainer, stopper and rigger—according to Ramon Perez-de Leon, provincial entertainment management officer.

The zip line has yielded huge profits. As early as January 2010, it raked in almost P400,000, from every P250 per ride, thirty fee to the municipality in Pili per person and the landowners get a 15-percent monthly share from the provincial government. They are likewise given priority for future employments.

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"Whoooooo! Oh my ... gosh!," the medium-built Jane shrieked in falsetto. Her daughter screamed, "Mammaaaa" almost without end, rushing across the tree-shrouded and falls-laden hills.

Across the NATION

Shipping strike cancelled

By Jhonson Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—SHIP OWNERS HAVE DROPPED plans to hold a shipping holiday on March 1 after President Macapagal-Arroyo suspended what the shipping lines have described as unfair policies set by the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) under its head, Ma. Elena Bautista.

Dexter Vilhan, legal officer of the Visayan Association of Shipowners and Countries Service Operators (VASCSO), announced that a group of maritime transportation organizations, National Coalition of Shipping Organizations (NCSO), has reached the decision on Friday. VASCSO is part of NCSO.

Vilhan said the groups decided to cancel the pro-day moratorium earlier because the government, through the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC), had acted on their demands against the alleged unfair policies issued by Bautista.

The ship owners earlier demanded that Ms Arroyo remove Bautista from Marina, saying someone who has sufficient knowledge of and experience in the shipping industry should be appointed as Marina head.

Vilhan said the DOTC had already formed a technical working group that would study the policies being questioned by the shipping operators.

Shipping companies have questioned at least 30 circulars issued by Marina, the most controversial of which was the requirement for commercial ships to equip itself with new life jackets that are expected to cost millions of pesos and that would render current life vests unusable.

Vilhan, however, said the groups' decision not to proceed with the maritime holiday did not mean that they had totally abandoned the idea of holding the protest in the future.

As of Friday afternoon, Vilhan said the meeting between top officials of their coalition, represented by Christopher Puentespina and Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, was ongoing.

Part of the agreement was for the shipping operators to have representation in the technical working group.

Vilhan said he was also told that the President's instruction to defer the questionable circulars was being finalized.

King cobra attacks alarm townsfolk, execs

BANGALAS, DAVAO DEL Sur—King cobras, which are not endemic in this town, have suddenly appeared and even started attacking humans, officials said.

Since the start of the month, two farmers have already been killed by king cobras while a baby was spared because his parents were quick enough to parry the attack.

Insp. Reynel Hantuan, deputy chief of police, said the first victim was Alvin Ayuda, 36, a farmer in Barangay Tinuyopan.

Hantuan said Ayuda was cutting trees in his backyard with two friends on Feb. 1 when the reptile attacked and bit him.

Successful Ayuda's friend ran after the snake which also chased the attacker.

Ayuda reached home and told his family that he was bitten by a snake. He died shortly without medication.

Successful said the second victim was Raul Opiak, 32, of Barangay Managa here.

Bodyguard brought him to a hospital but he died on the way, he said.

On Feb. 28, Successful said a king cobra found its way into the house of a family here and was seen near a sleeping baby.

Successful said the baby's father threw a rug at the snake to drive it away, but the snake wounded with it. The baby's parents struck the snake dead with a piece of wood.

Dr. Timothy Successful of Barangay Tinuyopan killed another king cobra.

Dr. Thursday, residents of Barangay Sibayan here also killed a king cobra, which was trying to cross the highway to their homes.

All the snakes were suspected to be dangerous because their lengths exceeded two meters, Successful said.

Successful said the snake attacks were alarming.

Chief Insp. Bolisomo de Castillo, Bangalas police chief, said police have launched an information drive on how to avoid being bitten by snakes.

"Presence of mind is important and a person must have courage to kill them if he can't avoid being bitten," he said.

Successful said police also advised residents to clean their backyards to remove possible hiding places of snakes.

Government veterinarian Fernando Bonalbo said king cobras are not endemic to the province.

He said king cobras were only previously seen in Davao Oriental and there many have could be due to the lahars host brought about by El Niño.

Bonalbo also said there are no available anti-venoms in the province and that victims have to be brought to Davao City to receive medication.

A PNRN shows off a preserved snake which was captured recently in Bangalas, Davao del Sur. Snake attacks have been reported in the area recently. Successful Jr./Inquirer Mindanao

Bayan Muna bets question Esperon agenda

ROSALES, PANGASINAN—MILITANT PARTY-list representatives on Saturday turned the heat on retired Armed Forces chief Hermogenes Esperon, chief of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) and vote candidate for a House seat, asking reasons reject him and many other former military officers now running for elective positions.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, now candidate for senator, said Esperon continues to cling to his post as PMS chief despite a Supreme Court ruling that requires appointed public officials wanting in the May elections to quit.

Esperon, as PMS chief, brought medical missions and job fairs to the province's dark districts. He is running against Vice Gov Marlyn Primicias-Agabas.

"Esperon was the author of 'Operation Bantay Laya,' a counterinsurgency program that resulted in several extrajudicial killings and involuntary disappearances when he was OAFP chief of staff," Ocampo said.

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, also candidate for senator, said she cannot understand why retired generals, like Esperon, still insist on running for elective posts.

"I can only presume that they want to protect the interests they have acquired when they were still active in the military service," Maza said.

"Like Esperon, Jalosjos has achieved the highest position in the military. But now, he is going down to the local government. Why?" she said.

Maza said she filed a bill in the 13th Congress that prohibited active and retired military officers from joining civilian authority.

"They have a different mind-set. These are commanders, as opposed to civilian officials, who are consultative," said Ocampo.

"I'd like to appeal to voters of Pangasinan, where several former generals are running, to give preference to civilian candidates. These generals are retired and they should retire," Maza said.

Aside from Esperon, among other retired generals running in the local elections in Pangasinan are former Director Leopoldo Bataol, for representative of the second congressional district, and former Adm. Virgilio Mercado, for mayor of San Manuel town. Gabriel Cardenas, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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NEWSBRIEFS

■ CAMARINES SUR

PNR expanding routes

THE PHILIPPINE National Railways (PNR) is expanding its commuter train route to the Alabang-Sosal area on March 1 and to Tabaco-Bulusan in April 1, according to a top PNR executive.

PNR general manager Manuel "Dave" Arcilla said both routes are scheduled to do 36 roundtrips a day using three coaches each with a capacity of 680 passengers.

"Like the light railway's loop that has just been completed, the expansion of the services of the PNR is part of the legacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo to expand the services of alternative transportation facilities," Arcilla said.

He said the additional two routes would serve some 1.5 million passengers in a month and more than 17 million passengers in a year.

Current PNR routes are Tayuman-Alabang, Tayuman-San Pedro, Alabang-Tayuman and Calamba-Tayuman.

Jean Encarnacion Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ CEBU

Cebu gives GMA top award

THE CEBU City government on Wednesday bestowed the Order of Rajah Humabon award on President Macapagal-Arroyo in recognition of her role in Cebu's economic growth.

Beltrocha conferred the award on the President. Cebu City Mayor Tomas R. Osmeña explained that Ms Arroyo has given importance to Cebu when she took her oath as President in 2001.

Osmeña also noted that Ms Arroyo chose Cebu as the venue of the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit in 2007, which paved a boost to Cebu's economy.

The President also set up a second Malacañang in Cebu, which showed its importance next to Metro Manila, he added.

In her acceptance speech, the President expressed gratitude for the recognition given her by the Cebu City government.

"It is a pleasure and honor bestowed for me, as one, always appreciative," she said.

Ms Arroyo said Cebu City was the best example of her push for development outside Metro Manila.

Jesse E. Zara Cruz, Inquirer Visayas

DAVAO EDITH CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sen. Loren Legarda, candidate for vice president, mingles with the crowd during her visit at the Torii Market in Davao City

"SAYO' ALAGAAN NA NYO ang mga kuwan kuwang wala sa inyo kasi ako, di ako pa'y nagsisikap kaya wala sa'yo'DOLE ako. Kaya wala sa'yo ang mga nakakuwang sa'yo sa akin sa inyong."
DOLE-OSH DIRECTOR. (February 2012)

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail: global@inquirer.com.ph

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

By Pia Dwijana

AUCKLAND—"If I do so I object to racial discrimination."

This is what my sister had resolutely told me that one particular evening, while watching "Master Chef." I was quite used to this sentiment, being the child that was most opposed to the whole migration fiasco.

Lately though, I admit that after one year of being here, and after getting to know my new home more, I am... softening up a bit.

There are still some stubborn adolescent moments when I feel like my so-called "life" has been taken away from me, and that I'm forced to just make the best out of what I have. But there are only moments, and thankfully (as far as I know) I don't stay in that kind of mood for our whole day.

I just really can't help being selfish sometimes. I log on to Facebook and I see all our friends having the time of their lives—without me. They go on beach trips, parties and simple hangouts, and I can't help thinking that I should have been there.

I should have been there having fun with them. I should have been there experiencing college with them. I should have been there, growing up with them! It's not the same. Keeping a long-distance friendship with those people I miss the most. Sometimes I feel like a ghost still wandering in her old home, unable to move on into "the light."

Friends. Beaches. Parties. Fun. Fun. Fun.

The Philippines. It fits really the image that I am going to get homesick, right?

Maguindanao massacre

Enter the horrific news of what happened in Maguindanao on Nov. 23. I vaguely remember sobbing in front of the computer, my dad's voice from the dining room. Talking to someone on the phone, he was angry and disgusted. Even in my groggy state, I knew all too well that was the issue.

It was the time he often used whenever he was outraged at something bad that had happened/could to the Philippines.

Bad doesn't even begin to do, as the other happened.

Attention summons. I picked up bit and pieces from my parents' conversation at the table about the issue (not big surprise) I never bothered to check the news out for myself, and here is where my ignorance became apparent. My dad, always intent on giving his point that we are better off here (and I concur, I believe him now. Always did actually, but I was never in love with the fact that a bright future was no longer possible back at home), I said with a hopeless, oblivious-ly voice... "Ayo na nga tayo sa Pilipinas!"

Is it hopeless?

And because I grew up sheltered, protected from all the relevance, and still never from what really happened, I thought, "May pag-asa pa yun. Always pa."

If my mom had not described to me what had the details of the evil minister's wife, would I have bothered to look up the issue at all? And how much attention—or the lack of it—have I shown? Is it without necessary to push me into action?

I admit, when I finally had the guts to shed some light on the issue, I was aghast. It was like living in this safe, secure world, then suddenly, everything breaks and shatters, and you realize that all along, you have been running a blind eye.

I can choose not to care. Why do I need to burden myself with all this unnecessarily anyway? I'm here. I'm away. It won't affect me anymore. I have a whole lifetime ahead of me. Why should I care?

This is why.

Because first of all, I am a Filipino. That fact doesn't like the cheesiest line ever in a time like this, but this is the simplest answer. I share the same blood with these people. I identify with them. It's like this story I read from a book by Alexandre Dumas' novel titled "Friends, Lovers, Chocolates," regarding moral proximity.

"We cannot choose the strangers in which we become involved in this life; we are caught up to them whether we like it or not. It was somewhere the mood of another, because of whom we happen to be, or whose one happens to find out; and our is to a position to help, then our should do so. It was as simple as that."

Also, the attitude of not caring can be the death of us all. Why should I care if I'm rich and well-off? Why should I care, let the poor handle it on their own. Why should I care. I'm staring out of politics.

This is how politicians get away with their crimes. This is how power-hungry officials get away with stealing money and lives. This is how the worst people end up proclaiming "Innocence!" while secretly counting the calls of the helpless and shamed for justice with in their own land!

'What's the point?'

I sympathized with those who lost their loved ones. I couldn't believe there were people who had the guts to commit such a horrific crime against innocent people! I wanted to do something. I wanted to protest.

A friend of mine who was there while I was bursting with emotions told me, "What's the point?"

What's the point of doing anything here? If we protest, will that bring change? If we protest, will that eliminate all the bad guys in government?

I told her I'd protest to get people aware that we are no longer turning a blind eye on the issue, to get more people in the country to support those who are fighting for justice, and to put pressure for the immediate release of the souls.

I realized that thinking from the start that our actions won't make a difference anyway is the reason why we don't do it. Because countless others pass them on, day in, day out. Our excuses pointed the way for the slow destruction of our nation.

I wanted to go home to have fun. At first said, I was being ignorant and, yes, maybe selfish. Now it disturbs me to think that people can still manage to have fun at a time like this. After what happened? After they've never hesitated and stop. Is this not enough to get everybody to act against this injustice, then good Lord, what is!

Hearts that choose justice

I used to dislike my dad for always talking about his job in my family. He'd always have something to complain about, something to be mad about, something to debate about. Now I know that this was his way of showing that he cared. He cared about the country enough to be loud about his disapproval, and he cared about us enough to set things straight. He cared. Both him and my mom. They may be many time homesick, but every now and then, I still see that spark of a passionate in them. More than a journalist simply telling the public of events happenings. They've got the hearts that desire change, hearts that desire justice.

We need to be loud. We need to wake up. If we let this massacre go by without giving justice to the victims, if we let a crime like this slip again, then I don't know what else to think.

At this moment though, one thing's for sure...

I am a Filipino, and I'm not proud.

Editor's Note: Pia, 20, is the eldest daughter of broadcast journalists Gene and Rowena Dwijana. She has three younger brothers—Gino, Adrian and Josh. She studied in a family that migrated to New Zealand.

Pia is taking up Psychology and Biological Sciences in the Faculty of Science at the University of Auckland. She finished high school at Mt Iara College. She was studying at the Ateneo de Manila University when the family moved to Auckland.

She gives credit to her parents, all her friends, teachers and professors for fostering in her a strong and passionate love of country—a guiding force powerful enough to keep her awake in the middle of the night, typing away on her laptop.

REFLECTIONS ON MASSACRE

'I'm a Filipino and I'm not proud'

Girl now knows why her parents are sometimes mad at the world

LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND This author, extreme right, with parents, broadcast journalists Gene and Weng Dwijana, formerly of ABS-CBN Newsmen, and brothers Gino, Adrian and Josh visited the homes during the Christmas holidays at Cape Reinga, North Island, NZ.

Avoiding hassles when traveling this summer

IMFO
Leander Santos Tanconco

IN A FEW WEEKS, SUMMER vacation will be here and some families are planning to travel abroad. For those who intend to travel to the United States, it is worth reviewing some of the common pitfalls at US ports of entry.

The most common type of temporary visa is the US or the visitor or the B2 visa. This visa is issued to those who only stay in the US for less than six months. When traveling with a B2 visa, a traveler should understand that he should not have any prior immigration violation.

A B2 visa holder who previously applied for extension of stay and whose application was denied, there is a possibility that they will encounter problems at the port of entry. Even if the 5-year and 10-year have the validity to them, they may still be denied admission to the US if it is discovered that they had overstayed on any of previous period.

While it is not the penalty bar, the legislators under Immigration and Nationality Act Section 221(g) provides for a cancellation of the visa at the port of entry. This is the reason some B1/B2 visa holders face deportation upon their entry to the US. Several travelers identify this process as the "6-to-6" or the "airport-to-airport" process, so called because it usually starts 6 am and ends 6 pm the same day.

Airport-to-airport cases

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Leander Santos Tanconco, a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Law, is a partner at Tanconco Ong & Manalo. He is also a professorial lecturer at the UP College of Law and Ateneo de Manila University School of Law. He is a member of the Philippine Bar Association, Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the Philippine Association of Law Professors. He is also a member of the Philippine Bar Association, Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the Philippine Association of Law Professors.

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Editor Abelardo S. Llamzon

(YOUNG) MAN ON THE RUN

Teen triathlete trains for dream of a lifetime

By Joannemi I. Andrada

GABRIEL ALLEN SANTIAGO ONCE THOUGHT HE was neither fast nor skilled enough to become a triathlete and compete in the Olympic Games some day.

But that was in the past. Today, the 13-year-old dynamo from San Andres Bukid in Manila is a picture of a young man on the run—literally.

"Allen is always on the move and often wakes me up early in the morning just to swim. He thinks it is a waste of time to stay indoors," said Ray Santiago, the boy's father and coach, adding that his son's daily exercise consists of eating, shopping, biking, running, swimming... and studying.

Allen previously dominated other young boys in the 11 to 12 years old age bracket of the triathlon in the country, and continues to outrun and outlast his opponents as one of the youngest contenders in the 13 to 15 years old category of the sport.

The triathlon is an endurance event, consisting of swimming, cycling, and running events in succession over various distances. Triathletes compete for the fastest overall course completion time, including timed transitions between sports.

Last year, the determined teenager competed in the World Kids Triathlon held Aug. 23 in Yokohama, placing seventh among 75 participants worldwide. Considering the strenuous conditions (40-degrees Celsius ocean water temperature and a cheap bicycle to compete against bicycles worth P500,000 a piece), Allen's magnificent showing is short of miraculous.

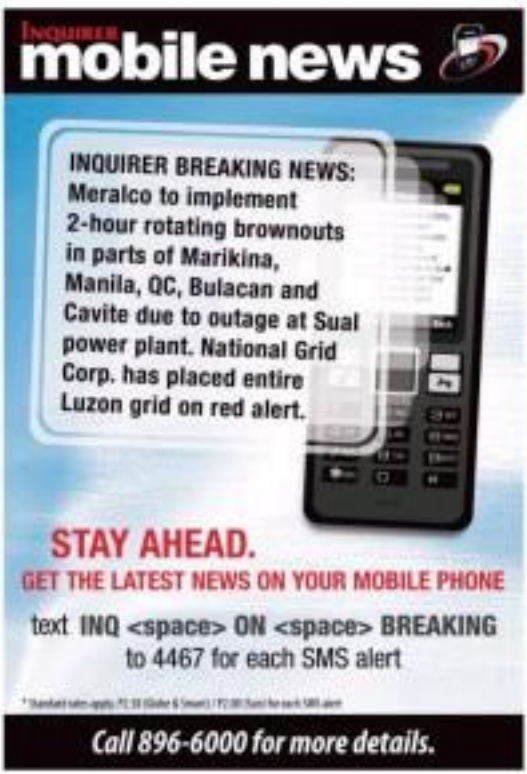
A second-year high school student at Ateneo University, Allen started competing in triathlon events when he was 11 years old.

A swimming course dropout two years earlier, Ray found his son's perfect sources in triathlon competing.

"I would tell him (Allen) about the sports I used to engage in until I was in college, and at some point, I mentioned the triathlon events. He expressed interest in the sport because of the challenges. My son has been hooked since then."

He concluded that Allen would retain every ten Saturdays, when it was supposed to be a free day for him.

"One Sunday, he woke me up at 5 a.m. because he wanted to run," Ray added. "From our house, I accompanied him on a bicycle as he



Teen triathlete trains for dream of a lifetime

From page A19

YOUNG athlete sticks to a rigorous training schedule that keeps him in top shape—and he's not complaining

SANTIAGO: Not an impossible dream

...ton headed to the Hall of Asia," he said, adding that the distance Allen had covered was approximately 12 kilometers.

Apart from his achievements in sports, Allen was always conscious of his grades. "Every time his mother and I notice his grades floundering, we would ask him to let up on his sports activities and focus on his studies," said Boy. "But he manages to hone his skills while keeping up with his academics. He is a very responsible young man."

The seven-ending challenges have always spurred Allen on, with the teenager venturing in swimming, cycling, and running events in competition with adults.

"During practice sessions, he would often double the distance he covers whenever he finds the races too short," added Boy. Unlike other triathletes who have a coach for every event, Allen only has his father to coach him in swimming, cycling, and running. "Triathlon is basically an innovative sport. We are not rich so I coach him in all three events," Boy admitted.

For his regular workouts, Allen does 40 laps a day—equivalent to two kilometers—in an Olympic-size pool. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the boy runs two kilometers each day; on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Allen trains to cycling, for 30 kilometers each.

Triathlon events for the 13-to-15 age bracket involve a 250-meter ocean swim, a 11-kilometer bicycle race and a 3-kilometer marathon in the finish line, but Allen finds the distance too short.

In Aug. 29, 2009, he finished first place in the University of the Philippines-Los Baños Triathlon International open category that drew both children and adult participants. The young athlete bested older competitors, leaving them behind by some two kilometers in the race.

Dares

Other events Allen topped were the Imperial Subic triathlon, 11 to 12 years old category on April 11, 2008; the Annual Metro Spirit Triathlon in Ayala, Alabang, on Sept. 14, 2008 and June 14, 2009; the Fort October (sic), 11 to 12 years old category on Oct. 26, 2008; the Speedo Aquathlon, 12 to 13 years old category on Feb. 1, 2009; the Gabriel's Symphony Triathlon, 13 to 14 years old category on Sept. 19, 2009; and the Subic National ABS group triathlon 13 to 15 years old category, on Jan. 17, 2010.

Among the barangay, however, Allen is not the only one who excels in sports. His 18-year-old brother, Ralph, is a member of the Philippine Christian University (PCU) varsity swimming team.

The youngest in the brood, 8-year-old Alliya, was the youngest member of the Philippine Sweethearts swimming team, and competed in an international invitational competition in Bukayo last year.

Of late, Alliya has quit the team, and has turned to gymnastics and diving instead.

Allen, Alliya's mother, told Inquirer that Alliya had no playmates in the synchronized swimming team composed mostly of adults. "She was several children practicing dives at Rizal Memorial Stadium, and decided she wanted to do that," she said.

Sports lovers

Only 16-year-old Alliya isn't into sports, but it is athlete at PCU. "She (Alliya) takes after me," said her mother.

The children, passionately Allen, obviously inherited their love for sports from their dad. "Name it, and Boy used to participate in it," Ellen said about her husband who used to be an all-around athlete. Boy, who excelled in table tennis is now into cycling. Before that, he used to play volleyball and softball, and since drove cars cast.

Ellen said they never forced any of their children to get into sports. "Boy used to tell them about his sports activities. They just got into it and enjoyed it."

The children consider the Rizal Memorial Stadium as their playground, and swimming, cycling, running, diving or gymnastics, their games. In Allen's case, he enjoys the challenge of being more competitive and seeing him a younger contender in sports.

And what motivates him?

"The finish line," he said simply. "I really want to be in the Olympics."

Navotas oil spill inquiry on; PCG to inspect vessels

By Beverly T. Mahinlod

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG) has ordered the oil spill-hit tank platform at the Navotas Fish Port unfilled this week, but has yet to pinpoint which barge or cargo vessel is responsible for the leak.

Port manager Tito Conejo told Inquirer yesterday that harbor personnel had reported the oil leak at the mouth of the fish port near the facility's breakwater on Wednesday.

The wind, which was blowing in...

...words to the port, had pushed the oil leak further towards Pier 2.

The spillage amounted to only about 500 liters of oil—not about two tonnes—and was contained immediately by the PCG with absorbent materials, Conejo added.

No damage had been reported by the port's clients, he added.

Officials of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority, which manages the operations of the Navotas Fish Port, are now coordinating with the (PCG) to find out whether the spillage was an accidental leak or was deliberately thrown into the water.

Port officials, as well as the PCG, will also inspect vessels that call on the port to identify which of them may have caused the oil spill.

The Navotas Fish Port is one of the country's major fish ports located at the northernmost section of the Manila Bay.

It serves as the traditional landing area of commercial fishing boats operating in various fishing grounds of the country.

MetroBriefs

Student found dead in Sta. Mesa home

PASIG (SAC) concerning his studies could have driven a 20-year-old student in Manila to take his own life on Friday afternoon. Police said the body of Jeffrey Carlo Herrera was found by his mother, Marilyn, hanging by the door frame of his room at their house on Jose Abad Santos Street in Sta. Mesa around 2 p.m. The victim reportedly left a note behind, police said. The note read: "Gomen kung hindi ko (ako) ay nakapasa at ako ay bumagsak ... Nahihiya ako kina ama at ina sabay ang sarili kaya nagpasiya ko na." It would like to be buried by my grandfather's side and my ashes be kept at the altar of our church. I'm sorry to all my studies, and my friend na dito ako. I, the mother said she last saw him after Friday morning as she was about to leave for work. She said she was not aware of her son's problems and that she was shocked to find him dead when she got home. Police said that while the incident appears to be a case of suicide, they were still conducting an investigation to determine if there was foul play. Nico C. Santos

Tollways South Station exit closed Wednesday

SKYWAY operator Skyway O&M Corp. (Comco) announced yesterday that all lanes at Alabang-South Station-Exit Plaza will be closed starting 10 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3. This will allow the Skyway contractor, DMCI, to widen the South Station roadway and construct the Stage 2 Alabang-exit lanes. Motorists going to the business, commercial and residential districts centered in Alabang or Las Piñas can exit at the Filinvest Toll Plaza in the Alabang-Zapote Road (Route 61) or the Alabang-Airport Road (Route 68) and follow local traffic signages. According to Ed Nepomuceno, Skyway head of special operations and projects, the South Station exit is expected to be closed for one month. He appealed for cooperation from motorists considering that the closure will allow DMCI to continue their work interrupted by South Station construction of the Stage 2 Skyway much faster. The Skyway Stage 2 project involves the extension of the Skyway's elevated toll road from Buendia to Alabang.

Fake Guess products seized in Parañaque

By Tina G. Santos

ALMOST P1.8 MILLION WORTH OF garments bearing a fake Guess trademark were seized by the National Bureau of Investigation during a raid in a warehouse in Barangay City recently.

Agents of the bureau's Intellectual Property Rights Division raided the warehouse of Windblown Trading, Shinsheny General Merchandise and Lorill Trading located in Tambo. The establishment is reportedly owned by Jonathan Chua and Connie Dela.

The raid came following tobacitan that owners of the establishment were engaged in the manufacture, sale and distribution of counterfeit Guess products.

Armed with search warrants issued by Manila City Judge Nida Antonio-Valenzuela, the NBI swooped down on the warehouse following test buys and surveillance operations.

The NBI said Sherston Industries Inc., which has the exclusive right to use, manufacture and distribute products with Guess trademark in the Philippines, had filed a complaint about the illegal operations.

Charges for violations of Republic Act 8293 (trademark infringement and unfair competition) were being readied against the owners of the establishment, the NBI added.

METRO
Citizen's Call
Your Step of Affections and Disaffections to make up of stories.
Your stories. Tell us all about it.

- Did a sidewalk make your day?
- Garbage dumped on your street somehow your day?
- Seen dipping forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up to arms against the demolition of an ancestral home?
- Saved by a feel-brown barangay project with a big positive impact to your community?
- Are more in particular?
- Fed up with roaming and fearing neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful facts on your way to work?

0918-8965566

P.S.

INQUIRER

2 men die after car hits lamp post on C-5 flyover in Pasig City

By Beverly T. Mahinlod

TWO MEN DIED IN A CAR ACcident at the C-5 flyover in Pasig City yesterday morning after the vehicle they were driving hit a lamp post.

John Paul L. Uy, 30, and John Michael B. Dap, 28, died instantly after their vehicle—an Audi with plate HEM 222—smashed into one of the lamp posts on the southbound lane of the C-5 flyover in Barangay Ugong around 5:30 a.m. police said.

The victims' other companion, Ramon Garcia Jr., 30, survived the crash and is currently undergoing treatment for his injuries at the Medical City.

PO3 Jerwin Galvez, case investigator of the Pasig police, said Uy had been driving the vehicle and had attempted to overtake a motorcycle on the flyover. He apparently lost control of the vehicle and crashed into the lamp post.

According to Galvez, the impact of the crash had been so severe that parts of the engine were knocked out, the windshield of the car damaged another vehicle, a Toyota Corolla with license plate TYD-350.

PARTNERS IN WAR VS HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Members of the diplomatic community gathered to witness the official partnership of Visayan Forum Foundation Inc., the Office of the Ombudsman, Asosiasyon Human Rights Center and the International Justice Mission in a major step in intensifying the war against human trafficking in the Philippines. From left – Carmela Jindal Castro (International Justice Mission), Maruaidua Navarro Gutierrez (Ombudsman), Cecilia Flores-Oebanda (president, Visayan Forum Foundation), and Carlos Medina (Asosiasyon Human Rights Center). With them were Robert Rimbi (ambassador, Netherlands), Federal Agent Michael Gilfoyle (Australian Federal Police), Rica de Blanco (police overseer/attaché) and Linda Bassett (charge d' affaires, US Embassy).

The WORLD

Editor Lorraine B. Ocampo

Switzerland faces 'holy war' with Libya

GENEVA—AFTER TWO CENTURIES OF NEUtrality, Switzerland found itself in a bizarre and unprecedented situation, facing a would-be "holy war" announced by Libya's Moammar Gadhafi.

The Swiss government declined on Friday to comment on Gadhafi's latest salvo in a simmering diplomatic saga stemming from the Geneva police's 2008 arrest and brief detainment of his son, Hannibal, and his wife for allegedly beating up their servants.

Although Gadhafi's jihad declaration last Thursday was widely viewed as a stunt by a leader given to outlandish behavior, the danger was difficult to dismiss in an era of Islamic-Western frictions over issues ranging from headscarves banned in Europe to Internet Middle East disputes. It set inchoate program and fired up opponents' caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad.

Analysts urged caution and Swiss citizens and politicians expressed alarm rather a notion which managed to stay clear of direct involvement in the world wars and other bloody European conflicts was being dragged into an increasingly messy—if still verbal—conflict with an unpredictable government.

"I can imagine that this won't be taken very seriously. But nevertheless, it's the head of a state making a declaration of war against Switzerland," nationalist lawmaker Oskar Freysinger said.

There was no sign of a security alert, however, or heightened official vigilance.

Gadhafi called for the "holy war" ostensibly because of a recent Swiss referendum that banned the construction of new mosque minarets in the country. He also urged Muslims everywhere to boycott Swiss products and to bar the country's planes and ships from the airports or seaports of Muslim nations.

Many here saw the proclamation as another act of revenge. Hannibal was released after two days, but Swiss prosecutors say an employee of the imprisoning then-wife remains in Libya.

Swiss and Libya have mediated discussions between the two governments since Libya's escalation of the dispute last week when it barred airlines from 25 European countries from visiting Libya in retaliation for a Swiss travel restrictions on Gadhafi, his family and his associates.

Gadhafi lacks credibility in the Muslim world and has no religious authority to declare a jihad, Muslim leaders in Europe said.

But a Swiss crackdown on who has sold his nationality on Libya said Gadhafi's call was serious because he proclaimed it on the holiest month of the Muslim prophet Muhammad's birthday, which guarantees passionate responses, and because it may inspire radicals.

"In the Islamic world, as everyone else, there are bright people," sociologist Jean Ziegler said. "Such language is dangerous in today's world, when people see the Muslim world against the West and the West against Muslims."

Those who see a clash of civilizations novel look no further than last November, when Swiss voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum for a ban on building new minarets, putting the Alpine country at the forefront of a European backlash against a growing and sometimes insular Muslim population on the continent. AP

GADHAFI during prayers

THE FATHER of Hamas commander Mahmoud al-Mabhouh with a picture of him one at the family home in the Gaza Strip

Operation Dubai: Balding, pudgy agents preferred

LONDON—SUSPECTED ISRAELI assassins have inadvertently given the world an unusual number clues to identities falling in headcam surveillance video of them going about their murderous trade.

There is cold-eyed calculation in the intelligence community for a new theories "tell" by the assassin script group of travelers who executed a Hamas commander undetected within hours of his arrival in Dubai thanks to strong teamwork and preparation.

Putting aside questions of morality—not one concerns in espionage—security experts say the skills on display is a horizontal global IT and online audience see three of a national intelligence service adept at hiding in plain sight.

The fact that no one can definitely say which one—despite strong signs it was Israel—simply underscores the notion that this was a very clandestine state service at work, they say.

"They got in, killed the guy and disappeared, without leaving behind a shoe they never," said Robert Ayers, a former UK intelligence officer.

"It doesn't get any better than that."

Israel has not denied or confirmed it played any role.

Experts say the fact that they would be caught on security cameras would have been factored in, although Dubai's decision to publish the photos might have raised eyebrows.

Hamas military commander Mahmoud al-Mabhouh was killed on Jan. 19 in his hotel room in what Dubai police say they are sure was a professional hit carried out by Israeli's Mossad spy agency.

The killers and their support teams—three wearing wigs, players, a black-haired young woman in a business suit, heavy set man in leisure gear, a bearded middle-aged man wearing a cap—look forgettable. Her tennis outfit, not too dowdy. Like anyone.

"The best intelligence agent in the world is five-foot-six, balding and pudgy," said Ayers. "Being middle-aged can help."

Dubai authorities rapidly dismissed the operation thanks to the ubiquity of surveillance cameras at hotels and the airport.

The images have boosted second cyberspace, providing a gripping show of the "reality TV" to spies among global audiences.

"This was not a show killing or some kind of video game. This was visceral," said Rodericks Asaro, a former British Special Branch police officer.

Dubai is learning for at least 26 people over the killing, and some communities have been struck by the murders, suggesting that is a controversies number for an assassination squad.

But the prevailing view in the intelligence community for now is that this indicates the seriousness of the killers' intent.

"It's entirely normal. Things can and do go wrong, and if they do, you need to get out. For that you need support," a former member of a European intelligence service said.

"I'm the video. They do a good job of looking relaxed. Tick comes from knowing you have backup in the field," he added.

Phillip Knightley, a historian of espionage, said the size of the team was not excessive. "You can never have too many people on the ground." Reuters

Florida whale shows to resume after deadly attack

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—SEAWorld plans to resume killer whale shows at its facilities on Saturday, just days after an orca it described as "an important part of our team" killed a trainer in front of horrified onlookers.

"We will resume part of our team," SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment president Jim Ayorkor said of the whale that killed trainer Dawn Brancheau.

"Tilikum is an extraordinary animal," he added. "He is a very special animal that requires very special handling."

Trainers will not be allowed into the water with the Florida marine park's killer whales until a thorough safety review has been completed and its recommendations implemented, he said.

Tilikum—a 5,000-kg orca already linked to two other human deaths since 1991—grabbed Brancheau, 40, by her ponytail on Wednesday and dragged her into the water at the end of a show at SeaWorld Orlando.

Additional supervision on Friday at a sometimes tense press conference that took place in front of an underwater observation tank, where seven of the park's orcas swam peacefully. Tilikum was not present.

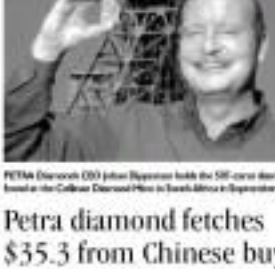
He told reporters, who were escorted one at a time into the park to the observation tank, that Tilikum would not have participated in isolation.

"It's important that I again stress that we provide the highest standard of care and we maintain it over subject to punishment in any form," Tilikum is an exception."

Colleagues from other marine parks in Miami, Georgia and Hawaii's Park to swell in the United States Navy are assisting in the park's internal investigation, as preparations are made for brancheau's funeral in Chicago on Sunday and Monday.

SeaWorld has scrambled to prevent the gruesome attack from becoming a public relations disaster that could hit its lucrative summer theme business, and its shares reported computerized losses. Wednesday's incident and two prior human deaths involving Tilikum. AFP

A FEB. 24 photo made from a video footage shows killer whale Tilikum before it pulled trainer Dawn Brancheau into the water and thrashed her around, killing her at SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla.



PETRA Diamonds CEO Johan Dippenaar holds the 507-carat diamond found at the Cullinan Diamond Mine in South Africa in September 2009.

Petra diamond fetches $35.3 from Chinese buyer

LONDON—A 507-CARAT rough diamond which sold to a Hong Kong jewellery company for a world record $55.3 million on Friday could yield a large, unblemished polished gemstone for a super wealthy Chinese collector.

Miner Petra Diamonds said the Cullinan Heritage diamond—so named in South Africa to Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Company Limited in Hong Kong, for the highest ever price ever achieved for a rough diamond.

The stone by far exceeded its presale estimate, underlining the strength of the market for magnificent diamonds. Analysts had expected the stone, one of the biggest high-quality rough diamonds ever found, to command about $25 million.

"It's a very special gem, it will surely go to some form of jewellery," said Alison Pearmain, chair of Petra.

"There was huge interest in the stone. A stone like this doesn't come around very often," he said. Reuters

Colombia court blocks Uribe bid for 3rd term

BOGOTA—COLOMBIA'S CONstitutional Court shot the door on Friday on President Alvaro Uribe's aspirations for a third straight term, ruling unconstitutional a law that would have let voters decide in a referendum whether he could run again.

The high court's 7-2 decision is not subject to appeal.

The court ruled on a law passed by Congress that would have set up a referendum asking voters whether Colombia's conservative president, a 10-ally could run again.

Uribe is hugely popular for successfully weakening leftist rebels, but he has also been widely criticized by human rights activists for allying himself with politicians who collaborated closely with far-right death squads.

First elected in 2002, the 57-year-old Uribe won reelection four years later after Congress approached through a law amending the constitution so he could run again.

"I resolved to respect the decision of the honorable Constitutional Court," Uribe told the nation in a live television broadcast. "I have no words. The truth is he didn't deserve Colombia from urbanized trench, candor whatever diversions, until the last day of my life."

"The only sentiment I harbor is a sentiment of love for Colombia," he added. "I wish that in the years of life that remain for me I can feel more love for Colombia."

Upon hearing the decision, a crowd of about 300 people outside the court's downtown offices broke into applause and shouts of approval.

Uribe had been coy about whether he wanted a third term—expressing concern only that his "democratic security" policies had been embraced by Congress and number people be confused by statements some elections set for May 30.

In announcing the ruling after seven hours of deliberations, the Constitutional Court's president, Mauricio Gonzalez, said Justices found a number of irregularities in the passage of the law on the referendum by which term. He said the court found that the process by which the law was approved violated democratic principles like transparency and voter rights."

The court objected to, among other things, the fact that the money spent to obtain the signatures required for the referendum law's passage had not been audited.

The court's decision leaves a wide open race for those who would succeed Uribe when his term ends Aug. 7. AP

Magnitude-7.3 quake hits Okinawa; no major damage

TOKYO—A STRONG EARTHquake hit Japan's southern island of Okinawa early on Saturday and Japan's weather agency issued a tsunami warning for up to two metres, but there was later lifted and there were no reports of serious damage.

The US Geological Survey said the 7.3-magnitude quake struck at 5:31 a.m. on Saturday (4 p.m. on the island's capital of Naha, a city of about 320,000 about 1,600 km south of Tokyo.

The Japan Meteorological Agency, which put the magnitude at 6.0, warned residents near the coast to evacuate to high ground, but the tsunami warning was later lifted.

Okinawa prefectural police official Hirotomi Kikkawa said there were no reports of injuries or major damage.

"First, there was a strong swaying, then, then sideways. The strong quake lasted for about 10 seconds," said Naha city official Nobuka Inamoto.

An official at oil refiner Showa Shell Sekiyu KK said operations at its 130,000-barrels per day Shiraishi refinery on the island were continuing normally after the quake and that there had been no reports of major damage to the facilities.

Public broadcaster NHK said local fire departments so far had no reports of injuries or damage or buildings.

Earthquakes are common in Japan, one of the world's most seismically active areas. The country accounts for about 20 percent of the world's earthquakes of magnitudes 6 or greater.

In October 2004, an earthquake under a magnitude of 6.8 struck the Niigata region in northern Japan, killing 45 people and injuring more than 3,000.

That was the deadliest quake since a magnitude-7.3 tremor hit the city of Kobe in 1995, killing more than 6,400. Reuters

SM Supermalls Reaps the Rewards of Caring

45th Anvil Awards

SM COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS

SM SUPERMALLS

breastfeeding station

When it comes to the various activities and programs of SM Cares, the ultimate comfort of our customers is all the reward one can ask for. But it certainly feels good when someone recognizes the work.

As public relations excellence goes, the Anvil Awards, presented yearly by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), with a highly respected board of judges, is not only the most prestigious and highly coveted award of its kind, it has become a symbol of excellence and quality.

There are four award categories: the Grand Anvil Award, the Bronze Anvil Award, the Anvil Award of Excellence and the Anvil Award of Merit. Out of 260 nominees, SM Cares was commemorated with two of these. For the SM Committee on Disability Affairs and the SM Breastfeeding Committee.

And the Award of Merit is for the Breastfeeding Committee, established to enhance mother and child health by nurturing and educating all new and expectant mothers who come to our malls, which are the only malls with breastfeeding stations.

The Award of Excellence is for the ongoing commitment of the SM Committee on Disability Affairs in helping to enable the lives of its customers that are physically-challenged and those that need special care, starting with making every SM mall very friendly for them.

Receiving the Anvil Award of Merit for the Breast Feeding Committee are: Mr. Hans T. Sy, President-SM Prime Holdings, Ms. Jessie S. Garcia, President-SM Supermalls, Ms. Bernadette Velasco, Chairperson-Breastfeeding Committee, Ms. Vanessa Tubis, UNICEF Country Representative.

The Anvil Award of Excellence for the PWD Committee was received by: Mr. Hans T. Sy, President-SM Prime Holdings, Ms. Jessie S. Garcia, President-SM Supermalls, Engr. Boni C. Madera, Chairperson-SM Committee on Disability Affairs, Mrs. Levety Buenaio, Chairperson- National Council on Disability Affairs, Ms. Millie Dizon, 1st VP, Marketing and Communications, Mr. Evelyn Sia Apostol, Senior VP, Marketing, SM Supermalls and Ms. Flora Salazar, NCDA Exec.

THE ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The Anvil Award of Excellence is presented to an outstanding program or tool in a specific category that decisively surpasses the set standards and shows the synergy of objectives, strategy, execution and impact.

THE ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT

The Anvil Award of Merit is presented to a program or tool that clearly exceeds the minimum or qualifying standards.

SM CARES

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Reddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Canlubang bags 17th title /A24

■ Caws edge Raptors in OT /A26

No complaints, Aces vow to come out fighting

GREGORIO

CONE

LAST TODAY | Acesto Coliseum
1:30 p.m.—PTA-Urbanera Jeepneys (PBL)
4 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods

By Cedelf P. Tupas

BASED ON THE WORDS OF ALASKA GOVernor Josiapet Tolillo, the Aces have moved on from the disbandable call that cost them Game 3 of their BFC-PBA Philippine Cup best-of-seven championship series against Purefoods.

"Let's just leave a better series," Tolillo said shortly after the Aces yielded an 89-86 decision to the Giants, pushing them to a 2-1 hole in the series Friday night.

"We don't want to complain. We don't want to protest. We'll just go out and fight in the next game."

The Aces try to avoid a deficit no team in league history has overcome tonight when they clash with the Giants again in Game 4 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The major talking point of the series so far has been the call made by referee Maul Mamaliz, who rebooked Joe Devance for a foul on Kelly Nonoy with 1.7 seconds remaining and the score tied at 80.

With overtime looming, Devance's intentionally split his final shots, sealing the victory for the Giants, who rallied from a 14-point deficit in the final five minutes of Game 3.

Giants wary

How the Aces respond from the nightmarish ending will be known tonight. Despite their two-game lead, the Giants remain wary of an Alaska comeback.

"We're definitely happy but there's no reason to be satisfied," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. "I have learned back from 0-2 deficits so it is not pretty much like Alaska is going to throw the white towel. We must come out fighting as if we're down."

Jayjay Helterano is the biggest star in the Giants' two victories. He stood out in Game 2 with 32 points, including six from beyond the arc that keyed Purefoods rally in the final quarter.

If there was any consolation for the Aces in Game 2, it was the fact that they played their best 10 minutes earnest in the series when they turned a 20-30 deficit early in the third period to a 78-64 spread before Purefoods rallied.

Fallen foe

Meanwhile, Alaska coach Tim Cone said it wasn't just the controversial foul that was disappointing Friday night.

Cone expressed displeasure over what he termed as the refusal of the league to keep the game when an Alaska fan identified as Steve Rarela collapsed on his seat late in the fourth quarter of Game 2.

"The worst thing about last night was the PBA refused to stop the game when a fan was in obviously serious distress," said Cone on his account on Twitter, yourtimetoreach.me. Cone said Rarela is undergoing brain surgery in Our Lady of Lourdes hospital.

The game was stopped for a minute as medical staff stretched off an unconscious Rarela out of the Araneta Coliseum.

"I wish I had been quick thinking enough to use one of our time timeouts to stop the game for him," he said. "The game is not (sacred). Life is. My prayers and the Alaska organization's prayers go out to him and his family."

CANLUBANG players celebrate by hoisting their youngest teammate, Reporte Zaragoza III, after winning their fifth straight title.

PAL INTERCLUB

Canlubang bags 17th title

By Herong E. Catolin

BACOLOD—HISTORY AS SPEER, Canlubang turned up the heat some more in a record fifteen if could have chosen to play only and completed its annihilation of The Country Club to wrap up its fifth straight Men's championship yesterday in the Philippine Air Force Invitational golf tournament.

Mark Fernando turned the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club property Marquez's course upside down for a tournament-best five-under 66, utterly dominating his marquee match-up with Rubber Boy-not by 41 points that left the huge Bacolod crowd shocked.

In winning its 17th overall crown, Canlubang rallied 944 and won by a whopping 22 points as the Bonnes also had their overnight lead after getting 35 points from Johnie Cadeo, Ed from Allan Bagtao and 21 from Ned Eyhamo.

The 29 of reinsen Abe Bondi did not count.

"This series here your appetite for winning, no one does," Canlubang championship skipper Luigi Yuko told The Inquirer in the eye of the celebration. "Whether this be the sixth, seventh or eighth straight championship, we will keep on playing as if it's our first.

"And this one is special because we did it with 13 holes of work destroyed and some reports coming from the other squad whom we improved," he added.

Refereeing to save additional Cadeo, Art deBode and Joey Warren, all cut-offs frustrated pose's TTC squad.

Seeing coach JR Tuquiqui again led TCC in scoring with 38, with Teodoro Jose contributing 34, Dony Villabor 31 and Rayson 30 for its 130 and 322.6 total. Ex-Marquezes caddy Ervin Madelano failed to count with a 29.

Canlubang then added 12-year-old grandchildren Reporte Zaragoza III to complete its 13-man roster after losing both ace Mario and Joseph Alfaro to the prestigious and recalling Gino Hernandez and Tommy Whatnot to the Senior squad.

Three years after came amateur ace Mario for Canlubang from the Ramos mailed by two points after Bernard Ros-side to score over by 11 of his third day when Zaragoza and Jesus Bahadoma led them with 35 points each to 34 finally to Mario's 33.

The Bonnes topped Fernando for the second time in MONDCC, and the reigning national champion responded by going three-under-eight in his first nine holes to leave Bayron in his wake.

"First of long just worked," Fernando, other had on birdies against a bogey on No. 11, and in Wilkins. "I saw to in the green today that I was nice able to score par every time I got in trouble."

Del Monte par no exciting end to Fernando's seven over in Bonnie after downing Cebu point-five a (PT) tally and a four-point victory over fellow Visayas Championship Division contender Manila heathwoods.

PAL Interclub final round scores

UNDERDOG—Canlubang 944 (317-320-307) 322 (322-326-324) 1266; Ramos 938 (317-310-311) 322 (326-324-324) 1260; Del Monte 909 (306-303-300) 322 (324-324-324) 1231; Wack-Wack 906 (301-303-302) 322 (324-324-324) 1228; Manila Golf 897 (300-299-298) 322 (324-324-324) 1219; Villamor 894 (298-298-298) 322 (324-324-324) 1216; Philippine Navy 894 (298-298-298) 322 (324-324-324) 1216

NCR bets complete romp of CHEd tilt

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PICKED up a few more gold medals in ballgames yesterday to complete an awesome performance in the Commission on Higher Education 2010 National Games at The Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Mike Rosenberg shot straight around to the swimming pool and track and field, the Big City athletes also extended their dominance in basketball, chess, badminton, baseball, women's softball and table tennis.

There were no awards given to the overall champions as organizers put more emphasis on discovering individual talents rather than regional competitions.

Just the same, NCR collected 162 golds, 62 silvers and 40 bronzes in the week-long event, leaving the competition by a mile. Region 4 (Western Visayas) came up with a 40-66-54 haul to place second, while Region 7 (Central Visayas) was third with a 33-42-34 tally.

Region 3A (Calabarzon) finished fourth with 25-37-46.

Chief Executive Commissioner Angeles said he will endorse the outstanding athletes for induction to the national pool which was guaranteed by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Tomohiro Terumoto Salazon and swimmers Claire Adorna and Carla Gonzalez of NCR head the printed finds as they got in multiple gold-medals performances.

Salazon even surpassed two UAAP record (800m and 1,500m) in stringing four golds including 3,000m and 1st/200m relay. Adorna was seven-for-seven in her events, while Gonzalez had six golds from the pool.

NCR scooped most of its golds in swimming with 58, aquatonds and field with 51.

Powered by NCR's defending champ Ian Sebastian, NCR swelled Region 7's Antonio de Jesus, 90-60, to sweep its way to the men's basketball gold. In the women's side, NCR (Lyceum) turned Central Visayas (University of San Carlos), 77-53, for the championship.

NCR also bagged four of seven golds in table tennis, except the men's and women's doubles, the with four gold medals each. It also earned all-right golds in badminton.

ALL PRIDE: Gerlie of Ayala Legend tries to pound his way past the defense of Far Eastern Pharex B. ALVIN KUA

Cossack, Pharex stun superior 'sisters'

By Jasmine W. Paya

COSSACK BLUE AND PHAREX B COMplex, both the undecorated babies of a rookie team handlers, pulled off upsets in the PBL-PC Plex-Fitness Pharexcess Cup yesterday at the Filoil Flying V Arena.

Cossack Blue put together a string of dutch performances to stamp another stellar showing by the Cobra Energy Drink standouts for a dashing 91-90 overtime victory that sentenced the Spirits Go-to-Head.

"We got so lucky," said Cossack coach Ross Rimbo. "Basically we run the same plays (as team mate Cobra), as the motivation and fo- cus we've shown spelled the difference. Cobra showed a lot of heart, but we withstood their challenge."

James Martinez, Joel Cabuenos and Ian Sagunsil came through the extra period and 20 Tigresses grabbed a crucial rebound in the dying seconds to seal the Spirits' third straight victory.

CONTINUED ON 3...

Pharex B Complex, in contrast, held control early over Ayala Legend for a 10-89 blowout victory that improved the Diamond Spirits to 1-1.

Ric Manuel, a rookie from the Philippine School of Business Administration, sustained his scoring rush with 27 points built on a 10-of-13 clip.

Martinez unloaded 15 of his 24 points from beyond the arc to lead the Spirits, who overcame the continental 46-point production of Cobra stars Paul Lee and Patrick Cabahug.

"We proved that he's back," said Pharex coach Rhodilyn, the standout UE guard who got sidelined for a year due to an injury.

Tigresse shot 33 points and grabbed 16 boards, with the most crucial coming in the defensive end after Lee missed a potential game-winning jumper in the dwindling seconds.

Sagunsil banged the outlet pretty well, 82-102, after running was less thrown off a Marvin Hayes foul in the last 0.8 seconds, sapping the Spirits' comeback from seven-points down, 73-80, to the last two minutes of regulation.

Two more:

Quarters:

COSSACK 91 - Martinez 24, Villarete 15, Tigresse 12, Sevenier 6, Rimbo 6, Sagunsil 10, Zamar 7, Hayes 7, Bernal, Cleofe 5, Rivero 2

COBRA 90 - Cabahug 26, Lee 22, Lopez 12, Hayes 12, Mangahas 6, Aquino 5, Santiago 4, Dario 2, Aquilero, Arnaiz, Gonzaga

Quarters: 20-16, 40-34, 60-60, 90-90 (ovg), 91-90 (OT)

Second Game:

PHAREX B 102 - Manuel 27, Tigresse 33, Perez 6, 11, Lomibao 8, Lo Air 10, Rimbo 6, Tanner 0, Hayes 10, 3, Arao 2, Mangahas 0, Aquilero 0, Pineda 0, Rivero

AYALA LEGEND 89 - Gonzaga 15, Lee 22, Lopez 12, Hayes 12, Mangahas 6, Aquino 5, Santiago 4, Dario 2, Aquilero, Arnaiz, Gonzaga

Quarters: 20-16, 40-34, 60-60, 90-90 (ovg), 91-90 (OT)

Smart Gilas feels it has found 'Mr. Right'

By Jane Navarro

ALL INDICATIONS POINT TO EMMYNE James being a perfect fit for the Smart Gilas Philippines national team.

At least that's how Bajin Eusebio sees it as the Gilas tutelar revealed that they are close to signing up the 6-foot-11, 251-pound inside operator out of Saint Joseph University, a 15-96 Jun Division I school.

"I like Jaime," said Eusebio. "But we have to make a deal. Coach Greg Popovich [of the San Antonio Spurs] was very positive about him. I'm doing my best to get as much information as I can."

The Brothart coach saw James in the NBA D-League during a recent visit in the United States.

Eusebio said Smart Gilas team manager Freddie Tan is on the negotiating table with the 30-year-old James, who played for the Boston Celtics, Cleveland Cavaliers and Charlotte Bobcats in the NBA.

"Coach was very impressed with James," said Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Noli Eala. "We've been studying his statistics and credentials. Clearly, he's a worthy candidate."

Eala added that James is described as one of the best big men in the D-League with 9001 stats and rebounding skills.

"If he is what the scouts have said, then definitely he will be a huge catch for Gilas. We're praying that all goes well and that finally we've found Mr. Right," said Eala.

He pointed out that the SBP is more careful now on choosing its candidates for naturalization after the first two imports—Ali Gilas and Jamal Sampson—failed to meet expectations.

Should talks with James fall through, Eusebio said he can still choose Mikhail Torres or Wesley Pitts import Earl Scott Lucas.

James has been tallying 16.8 points, 13.4 rebounds and 1.8 shot blocks per game for the Austin Toros in the NBDL.

JAMES

UAAP VOLLEYBALL

Tigers, Tigresses make UST proud

By Cresell F. Tupas

FOURTEEN WEEKS IT MATTERED. University of Santo Tomas completed the first UAAP volleyball sweep in six years with a pair of resounding victories yesterday at the FILOIL Flying V arena in San Juan.

Underscoring their wealth as the best women's collegiate squad in the country, the Tigresses dethroned La Salle with a 25-18, 25-14, 14-25, 25-15 victory last night that capped a two-game sweep of the women's volleyball championship series.

The Tigresses, who captured a third consecutive crown and 38th overall by smashing the Eastern University 25-21, 25-17, 25-15.

With the twin victories, the Espana-based school pulled off the first sweep of the volleyball titles since La Salle pulled off the feat in the 2000-2004 seasons.

UST, which has now 13 straight UAAP overall crowns, can add two more titles to its rollers this season when its men and women's football teams clash against Far Eastern U and La Salle in season-ender matches today at Moreno's Emmanuel Field in Quezon City.

The women's title, UST's 16th in the UAAP, punctuated a banner season for the Tigresses, who also captured the University Games title in Iloilo City and the Shakey's V League crown last November.

A jubilant UST coach Shaq delos Santos offered the victory to former UST mentor August Sta. Maria who suffered a stroke after the 2007 III season when the Tigresses failed to defend their crown.

"I could not ask for more," Delos Santos said. "I dedicate this victory to coach August."

After easily losing the third set, the Tigresses found their second wind in the next frame, fighting back from an early five-point hole to complete the upset over the Lady Archers, who entered the finals as the favorite after posting a 13-0 record in the elimination round.

Described by Delos Santos as the team's "midfielder," UST setter Shiva Benson-Lopez was named Most Valuable Player of the finals.

Angeli Tubungcanto, playing her last season for the Tigresses, spearheaded UST with 13 points, while rookies Mary Remotigue and skipper Aiza Maizo contributed 11 markers.

Behind Hasby Sano and JP Torres, the Tigers swept the Taimtes test, who finished second behind UST at the end of the eliminations round.

For Tigers coach Eyel Lomoc, the championship was then up for a "four-peat", which will be double up- talk and became the university will be celebrating its 400th year anniversary.

THE BEST: Tigresses celebrate their sweep of La Salle in the women's volleyball tournament. ALVIN KUA

Hard work ahead for Asiad athletes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A LOT OF JOBS AWAIT LEO ASKEO OF the nine athletes in the elite pool and the other Philippine team hopefuls for the coming Asian Games.

The Asiad prospects need to keep their form or face the risk of getting booted out from the national pool under a contract they signed with the Philippine Sports Commission.

PSC chair Harry Angping yesterday said that the national sports association with medalists in the pool will be given a "passbook" which contains P2.5 million to P5 million depending on the number of their athletes and their respective events.

"Each time we give them money for their foreign exposure or other training expenses, they will deduct the amount from their passbook," said Angping. "And then if there's only about 10 percent left in their passbook, we will inform them."

The national pool is now made up of 107 athletes with the nine who have to receive a monthly allowance of P20,000 each plus full support while abroad.

The elite roster is made up of bowler Biboy Rivera, tennis stars Cecil Mamiit and Treat Huey, swimmers Daniel Coakley and Miguel Molina, chess Grandmaster Wesley So, long jump queen Marestella Torres, karateka Mona Lisa Pelaez and world champion car artist Hubbers Sarte.

Huey and Mamiit won't get monthly allowances but their teammates ahead will be limited, said Angping.

Azarenа bets top Petron volley

CAGAYAN DE ORO — Aiza Maizo-Pontillas of Ateneo de Manila University Lady Eagles and Myla Pablo of University of the Philippines Lady Maroons will be the top guns of their respective squads when the Philippine Superliga Grand Prix opens its 2010 season on March 6 at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Ateneo coach Oliver Almadro said Maizo-Pontillas will be the main weapon of the Lady Eagles in their campaign for the Grand Prix crown.

"Aiza is the key player of our team. She is the one who will lead us in the Grand Prix," said Almadro.

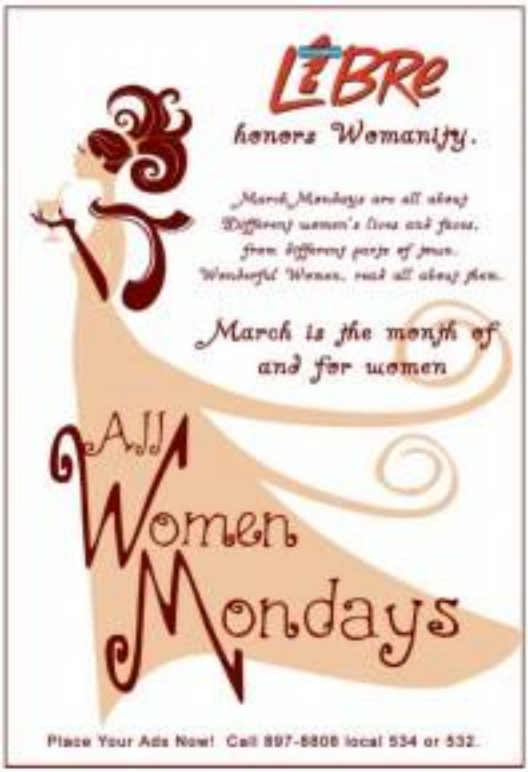
Pablo, on the other hand, is the main spiker of the Lady Maroons.

Maizo-Pontillas and Pablo led their respective teams in the Philippine Superliga Invitational Conference last year.

Maizo-Pontillas led Ateneo to the championship round but lost to Petron Blaze Spikers in the finals.

Pablo led UP to the fifth spot in the conference.

Other teams in the Grand Prix are Petron Blaze Spikers, Cignal HD Spikers, Philippine Navy, Philippine Air Force, Philippine Army, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Corrections, Bureau of Customs



CLEVELAND'S Mo Williams (left) strives to tie one against Toronto's Jose Calderon.

Cavaliers edge Raptors in OT

TORONTO—THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS were forced to overcome to beat the Toronto Raptors 120-110 on Friday, sending their third straight NBA win.

Mo Williams made back-to-back three-pointers in the extra period and finished with 22 points while LeBron James scored 36 for Cleveland, which maintained its overall leadership of the league standings.

Jarrett Jack and Andrea Bargnani each scored 24 points for Toronto, which lost consecutive home games for the first time in almost three months.

In Atlanta, Dallas made it six straight wins by edging Atlanta in overtime, 111-105.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 27 points and Jason Kidd had 19 points, 17 assists and 16 rebounds for his first triple-double this season. It was the 104th of his career, third-most in NBA history behind Oscar Robertson and Magic Johnson.

Dallas won its 19th on the road, one more than their total last season.

In New Orleans, the hosts erased an 18-point deficit in the second half to beat Orlando, 100-95.

David West scored 40 points and Marcus Thornton added 16, including a three-pointer that put the game beyond reach.

Dwight Howard led Orlando with 26, but scored only five points after seldom-used 7-foot Hornets reserve Aaron Gray was called up in the third quarter to counsel Orlando's All-Star center from the bench.

That's when the Hornets' comeback began and the Magic ran out of steam, hitting only four of 16 shots in the fourth quarter.

OTHER NBA RESULTS:

Lakers 96, Nets 88; Bulls 115, Sol Bucks 111, 97; Suns 122, Clippers 112; Rockets 108, Jazz 104; Magic 107, Pistons 102; Hornets 85, Grizzlies 80; Kings 103, Jazz 99; Pistons 108, Timberwolves 85; Knicks 110, Warriors 110, OT

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Contact center spices up food service

By Linda B. Bolido

CITY Delivery call center agents Geraldine Ilustrisimo with the restaurants' menus to help callers make their choices.

MARKETING executives Ilustrisimo and Valentino

'This is not fastfood ... it takes a little longer to prepare the dishes'

IN THE MIDDLE OF A BUSY DAY OR AT the end of an exhausting one, when you feel like having a good meal to relieve stress, you may phone to the comfort food of your choice from a restaurant and have it delivered right at your doorstep.

All you have to do is check out the list of restaurants City Delivery services and dial 8737878.

You no longer have to settle for the usual hamburgers, pizzas, or chicken fare. City Delivery now offers anywhere from Japanese to Thai, Singaporean to Italian, and several other dishes in between.

You can even get donuts, pastries and yoghurt for a minimum order of P500—with 20-percent delivery charge—you can enjoy "limited edition" dishes in your office or at home seven days a week from 10:30 in the morning to 10:30 in the evening. Whether it is a meal for one or an impromptu feast for a dozen, you dial just one number to choose from almost 30 restaurants.

And if you feel like organizing a relaxing evening with the guys or gals, playing a friendly game of poker, City Delivery will even provide the deck of cards, together with the beer, wine and soda, plus potato chips and other snack items. The company has a respectable selection of imported beers, some wines, including Moet et Chandon bubblies, and premixes from San Miguel Corp. and Coca-Cola.

It is often the case with new business ventures, City Delivery came about as a solution to a personal problem, according to Raquel B. Ilustrisimo, sales and marketing supervisor, and Edelyn Marie A. Valentino, sales and marketing executive.

The women say that the enterprise, City Delivery Food Solutions Inc., came about when the owners got home one evening and felt the need to dine on something other than the usual fastfood meals, the area too distant to cook and did not feel like eating through Metro Manila's heavy traffic to have his fill of something different.

Barcelona and Valentino say that the owners got the idea of a food delivery service from a similar company that has been doing brisk business in Shanghai.

When he returned from China, the woman say, the owner wanted to become the Shanghai firm's franchisee here. But the Chinese encouraged him to start his own business, as City Delivery was born.

The owners, along with some creative inward business assessors, all with retirement anonymous, the women say.

Ilustrisimo and Valentino explain that the service has been designed primarily for the it and it markets, as well.

Continued to A2

DELIVERY boxes are placed into customer-built motorcycles to keep food warm.

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This little pig went to market

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

MOTHER and child hold up black piglet, another source of income post-"Pepeng."

POPO COSMETIC WAS SET TO GMINDER ON a well-paying career abroad as a physical therapist until Typhoon "Pepeng" uprooted its plans.

Today Cosmeto is in the midst of helping his home town, Sta. Niño in Barangay Ambassador, Tublay, Benguet, get back on its feet through livelihood projects for women through the people's organization Sobibari, to Ex Ambassador Victoria and Francisco (SAVE), of which he is vice president, and the volunteer group Team Café. (This team was immediately formed by the children of the original partners of the Baguio landmark Café by the Bahay when "Pepeng" caused catastrophic recalcitrance in October.)

Sta. Niño is about two kilometers down from Kennon Highway the main artery, or 45 minutes away from downtown Baguio. The main livelihood there is apiary (beeper) and vegetable gardening and tea flower raising. "Pepeng" covered these plots of land and many houses in mud.

Worse, the Tublay-gap area for a time isolated from the highway by 15 road cuts. The current, rough road is passable now, but jeepneys don't service it anymore. Majority of Kennon evacuees have returned in order to left of their houses and gardens despite a technical report from the Bureau of Mines and Geo-sciences that the land may no be safe anymore.

Thelma Billan, SAVE public relations officer, says, "This is our land. We were born here, we played as children here, we cannot just up and leave and start elsewhere."

Current and other community leaders were able to identify 104 households that were lost or critically damaged and in need of help. Team Café looked for long-term projects that it could initiate, with the funds they received locally and from overseas.

Coordinator Padmapani Perez says, "The right distribution was really Nancy's (Adelaida Lim's) idea. Many people donated money so we had a fund that was more than enough for relief work. We could not do relief work forever. Even the evacuees expressed their unease with receiving food and clothes.

Trib. B2

> People of the Cordillera have an innate dignity that makes them uncomfortable with dole-outs'

WOMEN of Tublay, Benguet.

Contact center spices up food delivery service

From page B1

...as discerning diners who are not too keen on barbecue. The restaurant's City Delivery services at the moment has more than 1,000 dishes to offer, varied enough for even the pickiest and fastest of diners (complete menus of restaurants are available at the company's web site, www.citydelivery.ph).

Right temperature

City Delivery tries to make sure that the food reaches the client fresh and in good order. It has even customized their delivery boxes and the motorcycles couriers use.

The food compartment has both hot and cold boxes, each with two shelves—the bottom one has warm enough to accommodate rolices. The Honda motorcycle has been equipped with a plug for the hot box so food is kept warm during transport. Each courier delivers food from only one restaurant and the box has a color which the name of the establishment can be distinct.

City Delivery has also issued number coupons to customers as a way to avoid confusion. The stickers are placed on every food container to guarantee that the food is delivered just the way it was packed by the food outlet. Of course, quality of the dish itself is the responsibility of the establishment.

Bachelorette says their initial choices of partners were "personal favorites of the partners, their friends and friends of friends." Of their current partners, only three have regular delivery services. Some establishments may accommodate delivery only if the destinations are nearby, she says.

Orders received at the City Delivery call center are sent to the restaurants concerned via dedicated fax numbers to make sure they are given priority.

At the moment, City Delivery has two hubs—one services the Makati and Fort area, while the other takes care of Ortigas, Greenhills and Eastwood. Bachelorette is eyeing Alabang and Bonifacio Global City as the next areas to be covered. She also wants to have more restaurant partners in that part.

"Delivery takes 45 minutes to one hour," Bachelorette says. "Due to hot food, so it takes a little longer to prepare the dishes."

The business started only in December, but Bachelorette says they now average 200 calls a day, about 40 to 50 percent of their initial target.

"We are taking orders not just from offices but also exclusive villages, with more orders being placed in the evening," she says.

Trained staff

Because it has a more fastidious clientele, City Delivery makes sure that its staff—from the people who receive orders to the delivery crew—get the proper training. The call center staff is oriented on the various restaurants and the dishes they offer to help customers navigate the tricky path from menu to options to the restrooms.

Couriers, or "riders" as they are called, have to demonstrate skill and strict observance of safety rules. City Delivery will not guarantee the food will get to you within so many minutes because it does not want to pressure its riders to ignore basic safety precautions and traffic rules, putting their lives and limbs at risk and the food in danger of getting mashed and crushed, just to beat the clock. The delivery also trained to deliver a brief spiel about the company, the restaurants where the food came from and the food itself.

To ensure that your order gets to you as a private client, City Delivery suggests placing your orders a day before or even earlier.

As for dentists, Dr. Gerry serves Shiu, The Bread Bag, Crumbs, Tonks, 180°, Rhythm, Little Asia, Wee Odeum, Red Hot, The Flying Pig, Seafood Island, Chicagohall, Cupcakes, Gumbo Dumbo, Merlin Fresh Yogurt, Kashmir Store, Manggan, Second Spoon Grill, Red Ribbon, The Red Crab's Market Fish, Claw Daddy's, Fish out of Water, Gourdo's, Jamjah, Silk Coffee & Tea, Mr. Chen Kitchen, Texas Smoke Pit, and Secret Recipe.

The floating bath at the newly renovated resorts are but some of the highlights of the hotel's "makeover."

Bluewater marvel packs them in

From page B1

serve thing, developing, or embossing and solid staff will give any establishment the edge it needs to succeed.

Makeover

At present, the beach resort is undergoing an extensive "facelift" of its rooms and facilities.

"Our resort is undergoing what we call 'pampering,' which in Cebuano means 'expansion.' We want to give our resort satellite what our diverse market wants," says Blase, who has been with the resort for 20 years.

The resort recently built the new Beach Wing pool in addition to its Garden Wing lagoon-type swimming pools at the Asiavana Spa Wing and the Garden Wing. Two of its restaurants—The Cabana Mojito Italiano and the Allegro Restaurant—also received a makeover, giving the latter a more "contemporary Filipino-Spanish (feel)."

Apart from the resort-themed salad, the existing beach, the luxury suites, and restaurants that cater to different tastes, the resort's dreams for also has to own fishing, thanks to its signature massage and body treatments, Blase says.

The resort courts Asians and Europeans as its usual guests, and Blase admits that satisfying everyone's needs can sometimes be a challenge, given the cultural differences.

Full occupancy

Lately, Blase has seen an influx of Japanese, Koreans, and Russians at the resort. He credits the Department of Tourism for its aggressive campaign in promoting Cebu and its beautiful beaches in particular.

It helps, too, that there are more direct flights to Cebu from Japan, Hong Kong and Korea. In 2008, over 4.7 million tourists visited Cebu.

Foreigners make up 80 percent of Bluewater's guests, most of whom stay for at least three nights.

The 7-hectare establishment has come a long way since it opened in July 1995. From 50 rooms, it has expanded over the years to its current 157 rooms. Owned by the Allegado Corp., the resort employs 280 people, half of whom work on a regular basis, the rest on contractual terms.

This summer, Blase said his room are expecting full occupancy.

According to him, the busy months are from January until May, August to September, and late November to December, when occupancy rates average 92 percent. But even on non-months, the resort still manages to pull in a decent 70 percent.

Marriage in the 'middle'

"There has been a noticeable shift in the types of weddings we have had to budget address. That means more weddings for Cebu, more potential customers for us," he says.

"Our positioning would remain in the middle," he adds, explaining that while their amenities are world-class, they do not charge as much for the figure and more established hotel and resort franchises in the area.

With their continued participation in local and international sales fairs and trade shows, Blase is confident that their loyal customers will continue to come back to the resort while attracting new clients.

"In our resort, we remain proud of our Filipino heritage and our wholesome image," he says. "Our guests may expect nothing less than world-class service and warm greetings with smiles that come from our hearts."

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ABENSON

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Connecting is more skill . . .

From page B1

gain credibility with an individual, a group, or an audience is to borrow it from someone who already has established trust with them. It's the basis of celebrity endorsements and why you know one opens the door for you.

■ Insight: What you know

Insight also opens the door to connections. Isabel's impressive credentials as a physician earned him the respect and consideration of his colleagues. Albert Einstein, by now, Einstein's reputation as a scientist gave him a platform from which he successfully sold the leader of the United States.

If you have an area of expertise and generously share it with others, your give people reasons to respect you and develop a sense of connection with you. Word on Santos is people who have specialized knowledge. That's why trial lawyers call upon credentialed witnesses, and universities hire people with advanced degrees to be professors.

■ Ability: What you can do

Isabel Rodrigo's ability set at a high level in Data professions gave instant credibility with others. Basketball phenom LeBron James needed as much ability as a high school senior that Nike signed him to a $90-million endorsements deal at age 18. On account of his talent, people who have never met James admire him, want to be like him, and feel connected to him. His ability carries much influence that people will even overlook his character flaws.

When people of rare ability speak, others listen...even if the area of their skill has nothing to do with the advice they give. For instance, LeBron James endorses Nike from instrument. How does James' expertise in the insurance industry? Probably not, but he arguably the best basketball player in the world, and people listen to him because of what he can do.

■ Sacrifice: How you have lived

People connect with those who sacrifice for the good of others. For example, each year College conducts a poll to determine the profession most admired by Americans. Since being added to the list of professions in 1999, nursing has obtained the top spot every year but one. The winner in that lone exception? Firefighters, who took first in 2001 after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

If you have made sacrifices or overcome painful obstacles, many people will relate to you. Notice how much respect is given to veterans of the armed services; we admire them going into harm's way to protect our country. Think about the weight that is given to the stories of triple-leg leaders who helped pave the way for improved race relations in America. We tend to listen to people who have persevered through adversity, especially when they've undergone personal costs in order to serve others.

These qualities of connection are by no means comprehensive. I'm sure you can think of other reasons people connect. The point is that you must take whatever you have, and use it to connect with others. The more methods of connection you have, the better your chances of acting them, the greater your chance of connecting with people.

(Antonio The Allah Sandoping, The Leader Within You Workshop with Maxwell, Certified Facilitator and Partner CEO of Del Mundo Also Guzille at Alabang-Zapote Rd., Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Visit us at www.impeople.com)

This little pig went to market

From page B1

They wanted to go on with their lives, but many were anxious about how to pick up the pieces. A few were starting from zero. We put our heads together to think about how we could use the funds we had for the next steps that everybody would need to take. We distributed work starter kits to tins, bibs and Canoe, Talisay.

Nancy suggested the pigs," Reyes, an anthropology lecturer at the University of the Philippines Baguio, continues, "knowing that pigs are an important part of life and livelihood in the Cordilleran culture. So we included this in a community meeting, the idea was met with much enthusiasm. They told us that their preferred black pigs because people from around Benguet and Mt. Province go to Sto. Nino to look for black pigs for rituals or clan celebrations, that wanting to give the piglets as debt-outs, we worked out a deal with the community."

The deal is every household receiving a piglet must contribute P1,000 to a community disaster fund to be handled by SAVE. The money has within six to seven months upon getting the piglet to pay that down.

Reyes says, "The P1,000 contribution was an amount determined at another meeting attended by about 70-plus household representatives. There are 166 households, all of which will receive piglets. We have one more delivery to make. We pur-

chased the piglets at P1,800 each and the feeds at P1,200 per sack. They told us that if they choose to, they could sell the pigs in six to seven months at a price range of from P6,000 to P8,000. Once the piglets are weaned over to them, they are free to do with it what they want to happen to the piglet, or whatever they decide to do with it, they have to make the contribution to their fund."

Gowens says people of the Cordillera have an innate dignity and subtle that make them uncomfortable with the idea of charity, that's why a memorandum of agreement between the piglet recipients and Team Gift was drawn up and signed in compliance with a promise, upon the piglet going to a community fund. This fund were set up in each of the 166 recipient communities (municipal or mun. made disaster).

The second batch of piglets was delivered a day after Valentine's with 34 recipients ready with their new mates as per the animal in. The SAVE officers devised a raffle system where a recipient picked a number out of a hat, and the number was responded with a piglet. This way nobody would complain about the piglet's gender or size.

Apart from the piglet, a sack of starter feeds was each given away to the 34. The feeds are good for a month and a half.

Gillas says a few disaster affected community members begged off from the turnover because they were not ready with their pigpens. They will receive their piglets at the third and last distribution on March 12. The first distribution was done last July 9 at barangay with food vegetable by the Filipino Community Center in Honolulu through Child and Family Services Philippines Inc.

She says the team offered to buy organically fed pigs (a diet of pure vegetable), but most of her neighbors found it would be more expensive to do this.

Nevertheless, the Team committed to helping the ales look for hog buyers.

Reyes says, "We are looking at maintaining a long-term relationship with the Ales. We may expand operations to other areas in Tabiac. We have other livelihood projects lined up as we still have funds. We are working on the idea of rehabilitating the land and forests. If the community would like to continue our working relationship after the pigs, then we will stay on. We are prepared to operate a soup kitchen and omnibus each time it is needed in Baguio or Benguet."

Gowens, whose dream of a comfortable expatriate's life was abandoned at the time of his cancer's typical, says, "I have found more fulfillment in helping Sto. Nino. It has given essence to my every day."

Bluewater marvel packs them in

Text and photos by Kenneth M. del Rosario

IN A BUSINESS THAT TAKES pride in its people, continued success will depend on effectively nurturing a "culture of growers" among the staff.

It is not enough for the workers of Mactan-Bluewater Beach Resort to greet their guests whenever they get the chance. More importantly, when they do greet their guests, they must mean it.

This strategy has worked well for the operators of this white sand beach resort for 20 years.

"Our greetings come from our hearts," says Rhys Dane, general manager of the resort located in Mactan, Cebu. "We really do make sure our guests learn we want them to feel as comfortable and special as possible, that we are genuinely caring and respectful people."

In running a beach resort in Mactan, where neighboring competitors practically offer the

RHYS Dane

WHEN taking a break from the resort's inviting waters, guests may exercise their skills in chess by playing on a life-size version of the board game.

THE RESORT'S serene surroundings get hand in hand with the staff's warm and welcoming presence.

Calling All Hoteliers, Check-in with PLDT VOX

Discriminating travelers may book more often if your hotel has VOX.

WiFi internet access? Check. Cable? Check. Safe? Check. Room Service? Check. Mini bar and Jacuzzi? Check. Pet toys and treats? Check. How about that desk, state-of-the-art, telephone system right beside the bed that's fully packed with all these features, in-room digital TV, radio, and music options, on-line gaming and video on demand, automated control for lights, climate, curtains, doors and windows. Looks like you may have missed one more item on your hotel guest's list.

If you manage a swanky new boutique hotel or a big one, then chances are you may need to upgrade your existing PABX system to a more sophisticated one from PLDT.

PLDT VOX is a professionally managed PABX system with equipment from leading brands like Alcatel, Avaya, Avaya Nortel (now with Avaya), Cisco, Panasonic, Fujitsu NEC, Planet, and Ericsson. VOX is a comprehensive service package integrating voice connectivity, hardware, and managed services providing a total one-stop-shop solution, available on leasing and purchasing options for hotels.

VOX offers hotels a multi-lingual and multi-line call management system

Well, for one, if you are a first class hotel, or even just a businessman's hotel, it doesn't really matter. Whatever your hotel occupancy, VOX offers lively managed calls, allowing you to focus on the business, as VOX handle the calls, while you attend to your guests. VOX lets you manage a follow-up more time for things that matter, like the Chinese couple that they have taken for the newly announced presidential polls, or interviewing the candidates for party's chef.

Understand as when can the VOX system will enjoy a multi-attendant call-in experience. Just room the kitchen staff may may be getting multiple calls from room service after you've accepted all the new phones in the guests' rooms.

VOX is a one-stop fully managed service. PLDT provides everything you need from end to end, that means from equipment set-up, installation and even post sales maintenance. With easy monthly plans to make VOX more affordable, you can closely monitor monthly expenses.

The VOX package for hotels comes with the state-of-the-art phone, easy built-in with a guest directory, multiple languages, group and individual check-in, room service, bookings and reservations options are just one easy push-button away!

Instead of paying extra for the add-ons mentioned in the previous line, all you have to do is to subscribe to VOX Specialty Solution and your room requirements will be activated upon request.

Only PLDT VOX offers extensive nationwide coverage. This means shorter lead time to install, and the service is available when required. Enjoy various VOX services customized for hotel guests from desk and administration staff. Now that's offering your guests a first-class experience.

Smoother call-in for recession-proofing your hotel

The hospitality industry has, year by year, become an increasingly more competitive market. Hotels are finding it difficult to maintain their occupancy levels at profitable or break-even rates. Regardless of the hotel type, in the market segment it caters to, every hotel operators set goals for their occupancy levels and overall operational profitability. These goals are primarily to create loyal customers, attract new guests, improve operations, and generate revenue.

One way to provide first world-class, and memorable type of customer service is to have your guests coming back. A repeat customer is a rapid happy customer. Marketing gurus have said it takes just one unhappy customer to tell eleven potential customers not to book a room at your place. Customer satisfaction can get a big boost with an effective hotel communication system like VOX VOX.

Connecting is more skill than natural talent

"What I just read is still to people, I spend two thirds of the time thinking what they want to hear and one third thinking about what I want to say." – attributed to Abraham Lincoln

BELIEVE IT OR CONFESS ourselves to be boring or out of touch as communicators, yet often that's exactly what we are. We may be passionate about our messages, but we don't understand how to craft it in a way that resonates with our audiences. As a result, others tune us out, and we have difficulty influencing them.

Before passing along information, great communicators make a connection. They have a handful of qualities that garner the interest and attention of their audience.

By harnessing these qualities, communicators earn the right to be heard, and their words carry weight.

Four qualities of a communicator who connects

- Relationships: Who you know

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

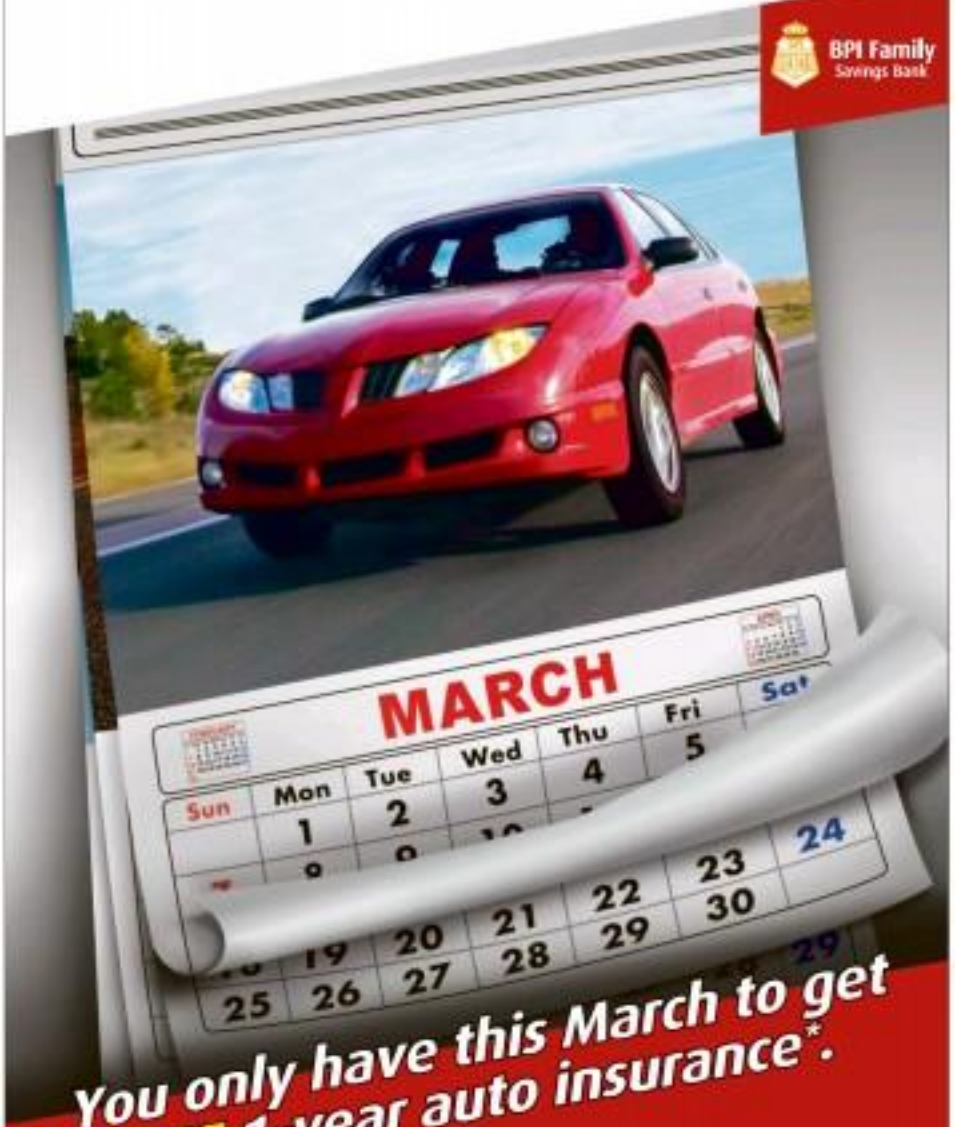
After reading about German experiences with communism in socialist journals, physicist Leó Szilárd became convinced about the possibility of the Nazis developing an atomic bomb. The Axis had announced **decided to alter** President Franklin Roosevelt. **Lacking direct access to the** President, Szilárd drafted a **letter and convinced Albert** Einstein to sign it. With Einstein's **name affixed to it, the** letter of warning reached **President Roosevelt's desk,** and prompted him to form a

commission to research nuclear fission. This commission later became the Manhattan Project that developed the atomic bomb and helped the United States in **end World War II.**

Leo Szilárd's letter to President Roosevelt illustrates an important principle of connection. Borrowed influence. Szilárd leveraged his relationship with Albert Einstein to get his message to the White House. One of the qualities required

CONNECTING B2

BPI Family Savings Bank



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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

COMIC stardom done, politicians succumb to the entertaining of image makers, stylists and spin doctors. Above, Senators Manny Villar and Noynoy Aquino

The great 2010 makeover

Although not exactly clueless, leading presidential candidates get a style repair to heighten their public appeal

By Cherlie V. Moral

IT COST THE US REPUBLICAN Party a cool $150,000 to give Sarah Palin, the former beauty queen governor of Alaska, an image makeover in 2008.

It seemed money well spent when the GOP vice presidential bet began appearing in public looking more polished in better-fitting, designer togs and better hair color and makeup.

That same had criticized the change was no rabbit for the amount spent, and that the cost itself would later become the subject of much debate, of course, are separate issues altogether. But at the time, it seemed so vital for the GOP to spend much on the image makeover of its VP candidate and her family.

In the end, the world discovered just how far the Palin makeover magic worked: not much.

Yet politicians the world over continue to succumb to the ministering of image makers, stylists and spin doctors. Anything to woo votes. There's, however, no surefire formula: Some, like Palin, do so; others down down to appeal to the masses. Still others attempt to look more mature, presumably to appear more experienced; a few do the exact opposite: They go fleece.

Which brought us to ask: What have our presidential front-runners done to the taste of 'pa-pogi'?

'Huwag pang-Boy Abunda'

Sen. Noynoy Aquino

When Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III announced his bid for the presidency in September, youngest sister Kris Aquino went on wardrobe upgrade overdrive for her brother. The actress-TV host played "bodi" to shots of business suits, barong and casual clothes for the campaign trail from at least four top designers.

JC Buencillo, who has been making some of Aquino's suits since he became senator six years ago, said the job order had increased since September. "I like always

The great 2010 makeover

SINCE the start of the campaign, Villar has dual hit—dark business suits + plenty (at first) of a warm, cordial look.

From page 01

look is fit it pleasing the eyes of his handler, he said. This time, she also had Randy Ortiz, Bb. Joey Reiman and Rubbit Asseo make several suits for her brother (Recycles also makes clothes for President Aquino.)

The four designers all said Aquino prefers boxier silhouettes, which, they added, is challenging if the goal is to give him a younger, more modern look.

"Hiway manong yung iba (Manila)," he had told Buendia, referring to the TV host's friendly tapered pant silhouettes.

"He needs comfort," Buendia added.

"It is degree if wear boxier pants," Aquino told Buendia in Ilocano. "Especially if you have to be active, you know, to flex your glutes in the campaign trail. You can't be slow when you move."

The designers said he would look more modern if he wore flatter-cut pants. His pants, they added, should also not be flat front.

"I'd also like to redefine the shoulder of his jacket," Ortiz said. "The sleeve should be transparent and the length shorter."

Unlike Aquino, his running mate has. His boxer is more definitive with his sartorial choices, Ortiz added. Bedan, the designer said, is more relaxed with the fitting, leaves the cuff to his neck. "He knows what he wants, he has very distinct style for everything. He would say 'Yes, made one for me like that.'" TOTAL also designed Bedan' clothes for his wedding to Kristara Bautista.)

Unperturbed

Aquino, however, seems unperturbed by somebody's memory. "Everything has this breath now," he said, drama-shielding his imaginary turbot on his wrist. "Drama for you, dramatyon, yes to wind. Comfort also. Napaka-importante ng ayun?"

Even then, Bautista said he was able to coax Aquino into incorporating color in the wardrobe—even if it's just in the lining. "I can't change the silhouette that he wants, but I thought I could do something about the color of the lining," Bautista said. He suits with luminous, Indian-style lining. Bautista suggested his shirts to his PR client, who agreed, although with a caveat: "Hinay lang ang sa'yo."

"If I had my way I would want a more streamlined cut for him," said Bautista. "But it's his call. He wants comfort, and I understand more that's what a lot of male clients want. Also, he's a matter so he has to look a commanding."

Though he prefers three-button and double-breasted suits, Bautista said Aquino would look better in two-button styles. Lapels naman? Ortiz said. Chapins, however, claimed he had gained a couple of pounds since September.)

While he had submitted himself to some sort of makeover, Aquino still can't quite embrace a more radical change. Was it a big influence at the court, though now, "not to much to piss or could imagine," Aquino said.

Mo Botox

He strongly opposed Botox. "No, no! You can see it here," he said, pointing to his forehead. "In my commercials, whenever I'm serious you can see me. (She crosses) And it's the base of the dimples and nasolabiographics ... It's water, poison. It's not something I would willingly let to do to my body ... Do you [point] try to his pants] dolce or some point ... My stylist is suggesting this and that. Perhaps it's getting more difficult for them to see it."

Kris Aquino, kids installment evolved.

"Some of my colleagues in the House have done it, so they're suggesting the same, especially. But it's not one of my priorities at this point."

Then he said, pointing at his pant, "I tell people that at least it should remind them of my dressed-down persona. I don't dress up for events. This look should pass when we're done with endorsements."

Asked him to being a candon, he said his only workout is the campaign itself. "I always say I'm watching my diet. Don't eat that," he said with a guffaw. "Trys to take precautions. I also tell the meals people to watch. Then, of course, the hours are something else so I try to pace myself."

If his stride closer to go the Bohol way, it's their business, Aquino said. "Ang priority nila yun. But down consensus of the substance of the message rather than the form of delivery of the message," he said.

"Again if you have a plumb, attempt up-

ALMOST the advice of his designers, Aquino still discerns comfort over fashion, opting for classic, boxier silhouettes.

'I'm more conscious of the substance of the message rather than the form of delivery of the message,' says Noynoy

How to look 'presidential'

Sen. Manny Villar

Fellow presidential candidate and Sen. Jamby Madrigal got everyone laughing at the Jaycees Inquirer Presidential Debate when she complimented Sen. Manuel "Manny" Villar's shoe (dyed hair), in answer to what the kilos about her colleague.

Villar then shot back that he would refer blacking if to his brother for dinner.

His new, darker hair color is possibly the most marked change to Villar. Some cringe, however, have maintained he has another point, especially for camera close-ups, like Botox injections. His friends would neither confirm nor deny.

Villar is a broker. He is what one would describe as eloquent, with a good fashion sense to boot. The latter he owes to his personal stylist, only daughter Camille.

"If you are rich, he used to be seen running only suits," said a friend and opponent, who requested anonymity. "Villars he began campaigning for the presidency, that's when he started to dress more casually. He started wearing polo shirts and jackets."

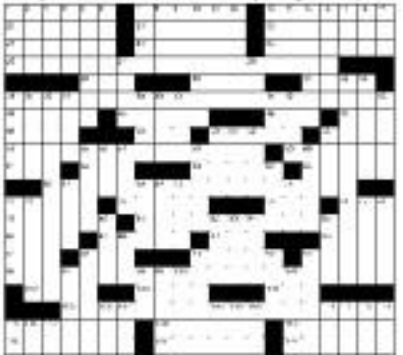
A workaholic, Villar is noted to waking up early and is very disciplined, said another friend. He watches what he eats, but drinks a lot of coffee. He sleeps for six 30-minutes, three-weekly naps on the weekend.

With a report from Julie Rementizo, Cris Icbalan

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

STOCKBRIDGE CAPS



more on page D2

Free lectures on Buddhist teachings

Marian encounter seminar

The Missionaries of Mary, your Marian community, will hold its Marian Encounter Seminar Module 1: Who is Mary? today. It will be held at the UST Santissimo Rosario Student Center, 4/F, audio-visual room. Santissimo. Manila. Registration is at 1-8 a.m. Call Sr. Isa Maria at 7438529.

Writing course

Catechetical Corp. offers Basic Discussion Writing: A Beginner's Course on March 1, 8 Court St. 6-9 p.m., at Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City. Call 8921909 / text 0947 6013413; e-mail basic.writing@yahoo.com.

Bowling promo

SM Bowling's Red Pin Strike Bowl is ongoing until March 31. Strike the red pin and win prizes. By sending off coin + bowler game code (ex: Red Pin Strike Coin) to Globe 0917 623 9626 or SMART 0922 Megastrike 0922 7300; Red Pin Strike, 4411900; Sun-star, 4006800.

Adult cardiology fellowship

St. Luke's Heart Institute is now accepting applicants for the three-year Adult Clinical Cardiology Fellowship Training which begins in May '11. Applicants should be graduates of an accredited Internal Medicine residency program. Call 7230101 ext. 6402; 7237489; 0922-8512280.

Club Socialista anniversary

Club Socialista's 10th Anniversary Dinner will welcome the club's second anniversary on March 12 with morning music and theater performances.

GMA's Go Girls and Kapuso Hunk, invited dancers at KCMO Bar&Disco, 3 Mandirio Ave. Horseshoe and Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, Quezon City.

Condominium House dwellers Jose Ramon Bagatsing Jr. and Aiken Sycip, Special participation by Ina Cabiya and Mr. Cruz. Owner-manager is businessman Jong Garcia. The club is at Panorama St., Makati.

Free lectures on Buddhist teachings

RINCHEN GHATSAL (1929-87), Kanjur, Vangdak will have public talks on March 1-3, 7-9 p.m., at Jap Center near Rockwell, Makati.

Vangdak is the reincarnated teacher of Kyabje Dudjom Dorjee and Mangyum Kusumpa Dorjee, in Malaysia. On her third visit to the country, she will talk about different topics each day.

On March 3, she will talk about how can love get angry? March 8-9, Does "positive attitude" mean do nothing?

Teachings are free but donations to help support Vangdak's visit are welcome.

Call Thanh at 0917-6201186, Jon, 0921-8464726.

World

Play

How fun will your child and school be when...

First HD 3D LED TVs in RP market to roll out this April

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES Corporation's award-winning full-HD 3D entertainment products will be available in Philippine consumers by April 2010, and the TVs will support new content and applications.

As a result, Samsung will be the first company to make studio-ready full-HD 3D LED TVs available to Philippine consumers.

"The success of recent 3D movie titles is building anticipation from people who want to enjoy the richness of 3D content from the comfort of their living room," said Epieng Ocallo Dark, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation. "We are confident that by being first in market with the best integrated technology and approach, we have the best opportunity to capitalize on the market anticipation and continue on our path as the leadership in 2010."

The comprehensive lineup of 3D TV and AV products comes with proprietary 3D glasses developed by Samsung. Additional models and tools will roll out by the second half of the year.

The products, which were unveiled at the Consumer Electronics Show in January, have already received industry recognition, including receiving the top awards such as Best of CES and CES Innovations Honoree awards.

Recognizing the need for strong content offering, Samsung has also joined forces with DreamWorks Animation and Technicolor to accelerate the worldwide deployment of in-home 3D to maintstream consumers. The solution includes a broad line-up of 3D compatible HDTVs from Samsung, by new 3D Blu-ray disc player, and an exclusive promotion that includes a first-time feature-length, 3D Blu-ray version of DreamWorks Animation's 2009 release, "Monsters vs Aliens."

SAMSUNG unveils its new 3D Blu-ray disc player and (left and below, right) 3D glasses.

Samsung 3D TVs that will be launched on April will also be able to convert normal 2D content to 3D in real time, thus, eliminating the current problem of having limited 3D software in the market.

All of the 3D models will feature built-in Ethernet connection, wireless ready capabilities, and InternetHTV, which provides access to the world's best HDTV-based application store Samsung Apps.

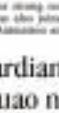
Several new content providers will be delivering content and applications to the Samsung Apps store.

The 3D products all include Samsung's proprietary built-in 3D processor and emitter, which is optimized for, and enables compatibility with multiple 3D standards including half and full HD resolution formats as well as the Blu-ray Disc Association approved "Blu-ray 3D" standard.

In addition, Samsung's 3D system delivers a picture using a full color spectrum for incredible depth and perfect clarity. For those who want to add the third dimension to their regular TV viewing, Samsung included in its 3D processor an auto-conversion technology that renders 3D content into 3D in real time. Consumers can add a level of depth and clarity to a live football game with the simple push of a button.

Holy Guardian Angels Parish in Tuao needs help

PURELY PERSONAL



Josephine Barwing

JESUS I FIRST heard about Holy Guardian Angels Parish in Tuao, Cagayan Valley from lawyer Atty. Guillermo Ocallo during a prayer vigil years ago. I wanted to write about it right then because I am devoted to the angels. It was only when Fr. Ernan Quinto was assigned to Tuao as assistant to Msgr. Gerry Reyes, parish priest, did I have occasion to do so. My writing about the Tuao church comes at a time when the church needs resources in time for the centennial anniversary of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao on April 30.

The parish has been chosen a Jubilee Church where the Christian people of the Tuao vicariate can go to pray and receive plenary indulgences.

The church will also celebrate its 400th anniversary in 2011, so Reyes is need to restore the façade. Msgr. Gerry Reyes, parish priest, has asked parish architect, Fr. Alex Bautista to design the façade lasting it on the look of the original Spanish church.

How to help

A minimum donation of P1,000 will go a long way and as a way of thanking donors, their names will be inscribed on the altar. Mail all donations. You may course your donation through Medstar Balingit, Dimas Agpalza or Bob Manalo, or send checks (payable to the church) c/o Msgr. Gerry Reyes, parish priest, Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Tuao, Cagayan. One can also deposit directly at the PNB parish, account No. 8582360000228. Thank you for your kindness. Text Fr Ernan at 0917-5703229.

Fair trade center

In Baguio, Mayor Peter Rey Bautista met with Gabriel Ma. J. Lopez, trustee-chairman of the Advocates of Philippine Fair Trade, Inc. (APFTI, Inc.) to discuss the setting up of a fair trade center in the Cordillerian hosted in Baguio. Lopez, who was recently appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as trustee of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, took his oath of office before Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in Malacañang.

APFTI is committed to the creation of an empowered community of socially responsible entrepreneurs who can put up a vibrant local chain of fair trade shops that can contribute to sustainable development.

In need of partners

Partnering with APFTI are Caritad through its Catholic Charities of the Netherlands and EQUI International Development Panel of Christian Churches. Lopez said: "Fair trade, as a movement, is a solution to poverty. It is a trading partnership which secures the rights of the marginalized producers and workers, especially in the South." APFTI opened in Cebu and Cagayan de Oro in October 2009.

Soon to open in Baguio and Manila. Interested? Text 0917-5055988 or call 4344744.

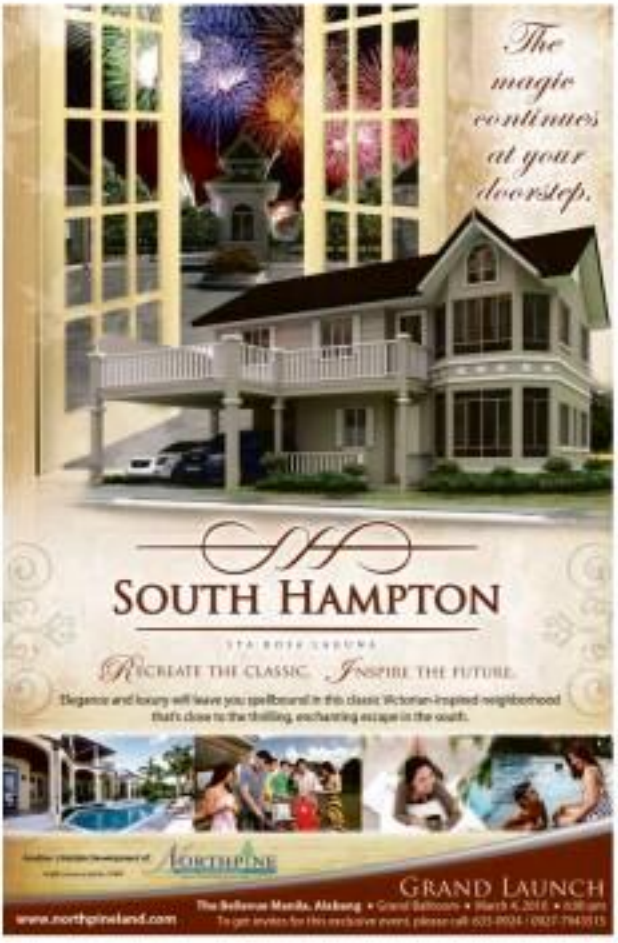
'Cuaresma' exhibit

"Cuaresma," Spanish for 40 days of Lent, has unfolded into an exhibit ongoing at the Clamshell Pavilion along Ayala Ave. in Greenbelt and March 14.

The members of the Hermandad de la Sagrada Pasion de Jesus, a lay organization of devotees from the various parts of the country, brought the collection of Lenten paraphernalia, images and sculptured thorns in our native style to convey the characters who were involved in the public life, passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The public is invited to view them and contemplate on Jesus' suffering and death.

Marian shrines' pilgrimage

Cofradia de la Soledad de Porta Vaga is organizing a pilgrimage to the Marian shrines in Norte on March 13, starting with Manaoag shrine in Pangasinan, then they drive up to Agoo to the shrine of Our Lady of Charity; Our Lady of the Sea in Sto. Tomas; Our Lady of Caysasay to the Ma-Cho Temple in San Fernando and "Banaue pacos" in Luna. To join, text Ryan Enriquez at 0927-8564321.



Encourage her to pursue her talent

Encourage.

Promil Pre-School

Zobel girl attends exclusive Crillon debutantes' ball in Europe

THE CRILLON BALL IS AN INTERNATIONAL event that gathers young, fashionable, privileged debutantes from all over the world for one magical evening. For 2008, the "debs," all aged between 15 and 20, come from 12 different countries including the United States, France, Italy, China, the Philippines, India and, for the first time in Le Bal history, Venezuela and Australia. The ball is the brainchild of Parisian PR consultant Diane Ophélie Bernard, who has masterminded it since 1991.

The history of the debutantes' ball traced with the Anglo-Saxon ritual of presenting the Queen of England with female and Old Europe's most eligibles. This tradition was restored in 1927 by the aristocrat hostess Jean Patou, and became an annual event at either the Versailles Palace or the Opera in Paris. The political events of May 1968, however, saw the end of the debutantes' ball in France, until it resurfaced, thanks to Bernard.

Soon on its 19th year, the Crillon Ball has a new spin on this dated "coming of age" concept—it has been transformed into a charity gala by Bernard.

The modern Le Bal (in 21st-century numbers) still retains the traditional royal element with a splash of rock 'n' roll, Hollywood, politics and even the sexy and sporty. Daughters of aristocrats walks alongside daughters of rock and film stars, politicians and Asian and Russian billionaires. Rich, Berlusconis, Garibaldis, Hoare, Mellan, Martinez, Spencer, Hicks and Mountbatten

are just a few of the names that have graced the glamorous Amerolano in the past from the fashion world includes Vogue's Anna Wintour. Her daughter was a debutante as well. Christian Lacroix and Christian Louboutin.

The Crillon Ball 2009 was held last Nov. 28 and had royalty in Princess Jelaheve Singh and Lady Kitty Spencer (daughter of the Earl of Spencer, brother of Lady Diana) as well as Hollywood-bound beauties like Autumn Whitaker (daughter of Forest and Kristina) and Francesca Eastwood (daughter

THE 34 LOVELY debutantes of the Crillon Ball

TNT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Author Sam Ekoyo

of Clint Eastwood and Frances Fisher). The year before that, Bruce Willis and Demi Moore's daughter, Rumi Loftus, made her debut. Other debutantes included the daughter of the Colombian Candace of Venezuela, granddaughter of Mozart's Sonata No. 16; the granddaughter of a high-ranking member of the Communist Party of China and the daughter of a comic and countess. This year's Philippine debutante is the very pretty and talented Natalia Zobel.

Fairytale

It was a fairytale come true for the 18-year-old Natalia. She is only the second Philippine deb to be asked to participate in the ball, after Dolores Urquijo-Zobel. Natalia wore a gorgeous version-and-pink emerald gown from Dominique Sirop couture. Her proud parents, Hope and Mariano Cabo was a standout in Pepito Albert's modern tartan, and her little sister, Rocio, joined her on this memorable night at the historic Crillon Hotel in the City of Light.

"It was a fantastic weekend for me in a fairytale place. If I could do it all over again, I would have maximized the time with everyone—I did that, but you know what... I had so much fun, I wouldn't change a thing," says Natalia of the experience.

From one parent's vantage point, Frances Fisher joins the ball in her own words: "The days of yesteryear the right man at a ball are over. It is about being celebrated and being photographed looking your best. The Swiss, I am independent and I am making my own way."

Proud as everyone's mind now is who would be the next Philippine debutante? We have already made out their list and would be asking the parents and the young ladies in a couple of months. The event is a once in a lifetime opportunity and truly a privilege since only three from Asia were asked (namely India, China and the Philippines). Only a select few partake in the "coming out" ceremony of rich charm, global success and raises money for charity. The beneficiary of last year's ball was the French organization Enfants d'Asie (Children of Asia), for which Natalia had already devoted time at the foundation's Philippine chapter in Cebu early last year. The French debutantes, Adelaide Pinault de Rothschild, actually spent time in a month in Cebu prior to the Crillon ball.

Enfants d'Asie is an association that helps marginalized women and children in the developing regions of Southeast Asia. With 50 centers (orphanages, schools and vocational training facilities) that stretch across Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and the Philippines, the charity supports thousands of children and women by way of food, housing, medical care, education and emotional support. It is particularly encouraging to know that the charitable organization is based in the Philippines and that the organizers of the ball chose to help our fellow countrymen.

THE ZOBEL FAMILY (from left) Mariano, Natalia and Rocio

Wyeth

Observe.

Observe what your child likes to do, such as a hobby. Help him develop skills early. Expose your child to resources that keep him interested and motivated. Take the family to watch competitions or attend concerts, so your kid will learn more about his interest and observe the performance of more advanced people in the same field. Subscribe to magazines, buy him books, videos, or software that are related to his natural field of choice. Attend all of his meets, tournaments or recitals so you can gauge his development.

Play

Play with your child. Playing is your child's natural way of discovering and "working" on a particular skill. Have conversations about what's happening in the neighborhood, and what you all did during the day. Let your child ask questions that you can help him answer. Make up stories together. Read to him. Enjoy games. Paint together. Give him space in the house where you can both play & practice what he loves doing.

Encourage.

Share with her in a loving way your unique experience and knowledge in the area that she is interested in. Serve as motivation for your talented kid's efforts. Challenge your child at the optimal level. Don't put too much pressure though, especially if your expectations for her is unrealistic. Give rewards and praise for a job well done. Decorate your family room with ribbons and trophies that your child has won or fill the scrapbook with newspaper clippings about her achievements. Stress the joys and pride in doing one's best.

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IN THIS ISSUE
My 'real beauty' moments /F1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Want to try a 'wifeless marriage'?

By Rowena C. Borgas

HOW CAN EMANCIPATED WOMEN IN the 21st century reconcile freedom and professional success with the urge to have children? And can all of this be done within that ancient institution which is marriage?

These are the main questions posed by Elizabeth Gilbert's "Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace with Marriage."

The book is remarkably unsentimental. Although sold as a kind of potted history of marriage, it is really a memoir about love, despite having promised herself never to get hitched again, Gilbert decides to marry her Brazilian lover Felipe to get him a green card.

Gilbert covers vast ground, questioning her own fears, excavating family history and studying attitudes toward marriage among privileged women. Our men-behave-badly writer of bestsellers and the US government, among others, to consider every justification of remarrying. The resulting narrative and casual philosophy are pretty charming.

The joke Gilbert draws from this is that couples in the West now expect their other half to be everything: best friend, lover, psychologist — and perhaps that's too much to ask of any one relationship.

The memoir becomes more interesting when Gilbert starts to focus on her real subject: herself. Felipe is trapped by US border security and put in a cell, and a kind official tells Gilbert the only way they can go on being together is if they get married. After this, "Committed" becomes an attempt to find a solid reason to marry again.

Surprisingly, it is Ferdinand Mount, the right-wing British writer, who supplies Gilbert the goods. Mount argues that the union between two people is the most powerful bond in the world; totalitarian states hate it because they can't control it. But marriage, argues Mount, is the ultimate anarchic act, one that creates a special state for two that nobody else can violate or spy upon.

The marriage Gilbert envisages, though, is far from traditional. It is what she terms "solitude marriage, which is to say that nobody in our household will play (or pray recitatively) the traditional role of [the wife...Before you] I will have to make up the rules and the boundaries of our story as we go along."

Marriage and how to reconcile it with women's new rights and expectations is one of today's key battlegrounds. Gilbert is right to say that we are all in unknown territory here. But she has an eloquence and lightness of touch that makes her subject matter infinitely compelling.

Highlights

Here are some of the book's highlights.

• Nothing says "I beat you" like a prenup. Gilbert and her fiancé happily drafted one, having decided it was better to discuss grim points, like the division of marital assets, while in the down stages of the engagement, rather than amidst the parsters of lawyers should things fall apart. "We shared some truly sweet moments during those conversations," Gilbert says. "Especially when we would find ourselves arguing on behalf of the other person's best interests."

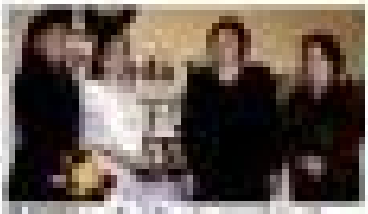
• Globetrotters in a blessing. Gilbert warns to which else there is recent study: More couples with young children said they were "disenchanted" with their marriages than old childless couples and empty nesters. She and her fiancé embraced their own decision not to procreate with zeal. "That relief—the great unburdening relief that we felt when we discovered that neither of us was going to answer the other into parenthood—still sends a pleasant vibrating hum across our life together," she writes.

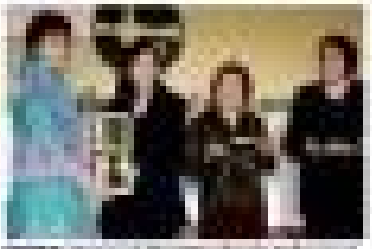
• Land in the outdoors. Scorched by the reckless romances of her 20s, Gilbert spent her early 30s willfully alone. Then she and her fiancé thrive without googly eyes or sweaty palms. "By this point in my life, I have figured out that for someone complete me, even if he wanted to," Gilbert declares.

"Committed" is a testament to the power of marriage, and an honest appraisal of it. Anyone who is considering making such an emotionally and legally significant decision would do well to pick up the book. Gilbert's battle-hewn married wisdom can enlighten those who will enter into a first marriage by the age of 30, those who have dutifully never to get hitched, and those who are already married, for better or worse.

My son celebrated his 16th birthday in heaven

Poveda marks 50th year



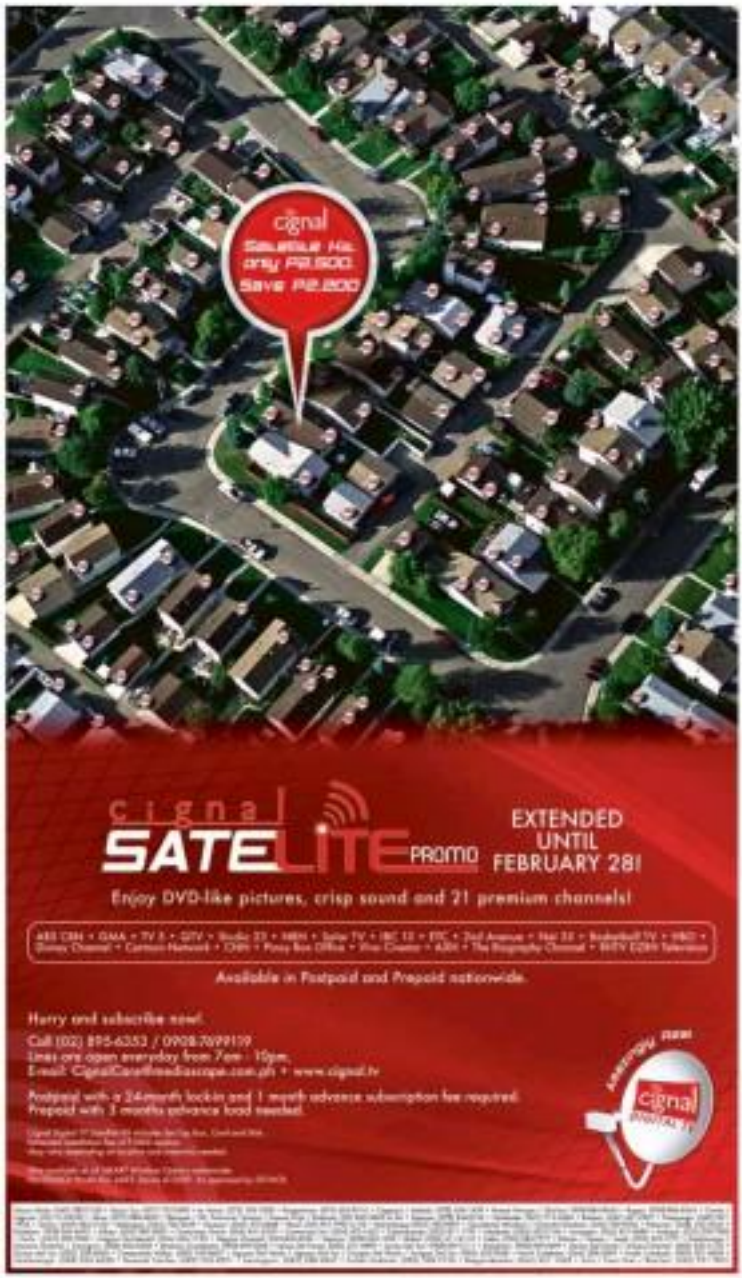


THE FULL SPECTRUM OF PHILIPPINE ART RADIATES

Filipino ingenuity and artistry shines through Bhavat, a festival showcasing the most inspiring talents in the fields of music, visual arts, and fashion at the Solaire Metro

This used to be our playground

BRAVO!



Her husband admits committing adultery with her friend

DEAR EMILY,

I am concerned that my husband and I are about to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary this year, since we almost separated on our 25th year. Our marriage then had become so boring, we slept in separate rooms, traveled separately and led separate lives.

Sometime at the start of our 26th year, he suddenly became very thoughtful and loving—almost reverential to me! He became a new man, awakened from a midlife crisis, I assumed. I didn't question his behavior. I only accepted the new him wholeheartedly. He began to take out an allout-effort and many out-of-the-country trips, no matter how short they were. Our sex life became active—before it would take years for him to even touch me. Our children noticed our newfound closeness and we became a family again. His entire world ran for around two years and gradually we settled back on being an old married couple—better and closer than when we almost separated. It was only when we attended a marriage encounter a few months ago that he confessed his adultery to me. He said he had an affair—with my old friend of mine—for other being himself back to me or separate from our unlikely. He said the commitment and joy he felt during the affair allowed him to carry it over to our marriage, and in this process saved it. Without it, he said, we probably wouldn't be where we are now. I must admit that they were so ultra discreet, nobody really knew. I actually don't harbor any ill feelings toward my old friend. I don't know whether to start hating her belatedly for her disloyalty to me—or to be grateful for a jilted wife—or to thank her for saving our marriage.

Friend in Deed

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

What your husband and old friend did to you was disloyal and unconscionable. But the means, to a very justified the end.

You got your husband back, who had clearly gotten lost in the maze of your marriage.

In best-case-scenario circumstance, it takes three to make a marriage crack. The last time they were divorced and didn't hesitate about making their affair to a remarriage to their respect for you. You didn't have about it because they didn't. Rarely it and weren't vulgar about it. It was probably just the case of two lonely people seeking community solace from each other. They might never intended each other to straighten each other's lives and in doing so, strengthened your marriage in the process. You're lucky because in a roundabout way, the happiness and contentment your husband got from this affair endured into making you happy as well. However hard you may feel now, it turned out to be a win-win situation in the end.

Difficult as it is to accept it, accidents just don't happen in the universe. What happened, happened for a purpose.

E-mail emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph.

This used . . .

From page E1

would often while the time away swapping stories and consuming the ice cream behind those thickets of bamboo shoots or under the lure of Manuel Colayco's bronze statue. Colayco Park is now but a memory as well.

Shadow my ignorance, but to this day I have yet to find out what Colayco did for the town to merit some or and park named after him. But I will always remember the place and vacation other places at UST are frequented back then as their ambiance to many of our hopes, dreams and misadventures as we tried to understand and savor our a place by ourselves in a big, wild, unknown world that beckoned, bewitched.

PLAY AND DISPLAY Tong Reyes, Jay Manuel and Glenda Gloria

(The above article is an abridged version of a piece that came out recently in the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters' semestral program to mark its general alumni homecoming. In case you're wondering, the author, a UST Journalism major and member of Class '80, and his fellow graduates, are in their mid-40s.)

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ A cruise, a childhood revisited /F2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

DR. EMMANUEL Y. ANGELES

Clark's perfect guide

DR. ANGELES takes time off from his busy schedule to drop at ACE Hardware at SM City Clark.

AT THE AUF Medical Center with AUFMC Medical Director Dr. Ma. Lourdes G. Lagunilla

DR. EMMANUEL Y. ANGELES AND HIS HOME city, Angeles, significantly share the same name, and it is perhaps his destiny that he has contributed much to his home province of Pampanga through his extensive work in the academe and government service. Although he is a lawyer by profession, Dr. Angeles has made education his vocation, shaping young Kapampangan minds as second President, and later Chancellor of the Angeles University Foundation (AUF), and as Founding President of the Angeles University Medical Foundation (AUFMC). He has been Chairman of the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) since Sept. 1, 2008, bringing with him 50 years of experience in the field.

From March 13, 2001 to March 10, 2006, Dr. Angeles served as president and chief executive officer of Clark De-

DR. ANGELES in front of the Commission of Higher Education (CHED), where he has been Chairman since 2008

SM CITY Clark has become a favorite destination for Kapampangans since it opened in 2006. It has also been a venue for community events in the province, frequently partnering with AUF and AUFMC for numerous promotions, community outreach and environmental preservation programs.

DR. ANGELES enjoys grilled specialties at Gerry's Grill at SM City Clark with wife Dr. Cornelia Lakton-Angeles, second son and incumbent AUF president Joseph Emmanuel Angeles, daughter-in-law Marianne Elizabeth B. Angeles, and grandsons Matthew Dominic and Theodore James.

velopment Corporation. With him at the helm of CDC, he steered Clark into becoming a world-class aviation and economic hub in Southeast Asia. His outstanding accomplishments, as well as his love for his hometown, make him a perfect guide to his Clark, his SM.

Awards

Dr. Angeles is recipient of five honorary degrees and five honorary professorships from universities in Europe and the Asia Pacific region, among other distinctions conferred upon him.

These are: Outstanding Thomasian Alumnus Award in Education, 1999; Ulirang Anak Award for Education, 1997; Most Outstanding Kapampangan in Private Education, 1987; Papal Award of the Noble Knighthood of the Pontifical Order of Saint Sylvester, 1992; and Ten Outstanding Young Men (TEYM) Award in Education, 1971.

Why I love Clark

my city my SM

Why I love SM

Up, Up, and Away at Clark

The Clark Freeport Zone, a redevelopment of the former 43 Air Force Base, has become a hub for business, industry, aviation, and tourism in the Central Luzon area. Located both in Angeles City and in the municipality of Mabalacat in Pampanga, it has the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport as its centerpiece, and attracted some 500 foreign and domestic investors, including an SM Mall. With many Kapampangans, like accomplished artist, furniture designer, foodie, and writer Claude Tayag, embrace this progress, they continue to celebrate much of the city's history, culture, and fabulous cuisine in their everyday lives. This wonderful mix of old and new, East and West, global and local makes citizens like Claude upbeat about Clark and SM.

PHILIPPINES

SM

BOA-FLEETWOOD-CUTTING guests Tina Jacinto, The Peninsula Manila's Jonathan Crook, Rudy Tantoco, Amb. Bienvenido Tantoco, Betty Westendorp, Dee Zobel, Linda Nicolas Lewis and Linda Gamboa of Advancing Foundation of the Philippines

OSCAR BOUND designer Oliver Tolentino with his beautiful ballgown

EVENTS designer Jun Jun Arriola

MABEL Rangel and Mavic Bautista-Lorenzo in "Tatong Martyr"

The Philippines invades Hollywood–for a change

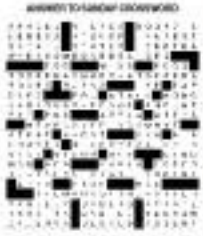
AMPHIBIOUS Lhuillier, Flora L. Moss Ostrowski and Shahar Ohanpe

"FABULOUS GUY" sponsor Flawless group's Philly Mueller, with Liam Tolentino, Ina Princess Ramos-Lenon Ruby Cojuangco and Tanya Quibilan

JUST SUPPORTERS Bambi Gagarin Jr. and my parents-in-law Jess and Cynthia Valdez

SUPERT presenting the book to Nedy Tantoco with Tina J. and Amb. Bienvenido Tantoco

FIRSTER photographer Rupert Jacinto (center) with lovely ladies Helen Ong, Phillie Rivera, Amparito Chuidian and Nene Lorenzo



ANSWERS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THE PHILIPPINES IS IN Hollywood mode, and Hollywood is in Philippine mode, too. One of my favorite local fashion designers, Oliver Tolentino, is making waves in Hollywood.

Oliver's stunning gown of amber pleats and dimensions has been selected by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences as a finalist to compete in "Oscars Designer Challenge 2011." Only nine designers are selected to create one gown for possible appearance in the 2011 Oscar telecast this March 7.

The winner of the challenge will receive two tickets to attend the show and will have his gown being worn on stage by one of the "trophy girls" who bring the Oscar statuettes to the presenters.

Oliver's gown features Philippine freshwater pearls at the neckline, extending in an asymmetrical swirl. The elegant, off-white, oversized gown is accented with ruffles and also features hand-couture, broken up by two contrasting strips of snowflake-like pleated fabric.

The gowns are posted on www.oscar.com, the Academy's official website, and we can log on and vote for Oliver's creation. I hope we can do for Oliver what we've done for the Cinderella gown. The winning gown will be announced on the Oscar pre-show immediately before the 82nd Academy Awards telecast.

Oliver opened a boutique in Bonifacio Arcade only eight months ago, so just getting to be part of the Designer Challenge already makes him a winner. Check out www.olivertolentino.com to see how he has put Hollywood into Pinoy mode.

Fab exhibit

Meanwhile, across the ocean, high society photographer Rupert Jacinto has a new book and exhibit, themed "Old Hollywood Glamour." The book, "Pasadelirious," and exhibit were recently launched at The Gallery of The Peninsula Manila.

Penthouse designer Jun Jun Arriola and his Host Our Productions creatively transformed The Gallery into a Hollywood-style gallery. The exhibit is on until tomorrow, so check out the photos that in each rented boutique on the Gold-coloring Mansion in the Makeshifting complex in the trendy boulevard of Ivory Commercial.

Rupert's latest effort features 100 portraits, and is a special partnership with the Advancing Foundation of the Philippines in support of the Love-A-Child Program of the Sto. Niño de Sur of Greenhills Chapel, under its chaplain Fr. Jess Secreto. The Love-A-Child program assists needy children and covers the country.

Guests at the launch included Linda Nicolas Lewis, Betty Tantoco, Betsy Tabacchi, sheep de Brito and Dee Zobel, who cut the ribbon with Amb. Bienvenido Tantoco and Mr. UM Jonathan Crook. Just being there made one feel like one of Rupert's subjects from America's Hollywood—the Rockefellers and Vanderbilts of old.

High-profile forum

Coincidentally, a recent visitor to Manila was American philanthropist Dr. Peggy Dulany Rockefeller, founder and chair of the New York-based Synergos Institute. Dr. Rockefeller was the guest of honor at Knowledge Channel's recent forum, "Lead the Change: An Evening of Dialogue for Action."

The forum gathered high-profile businessmen, civil society and public officials to discuss ways on how to best meet 21st century challenges in education, entrepreneurs, health, governance, population and peace. Among the chairs and trustees Adrian Cristobal, Dr. Cesar Lopez, Ayala chief Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, SM head Gigi Sicangco, Credit Suisse's Simon Palomo and JSE Chair Hans Sicat.

Knowledge Channel's Bro. Luis Lopez Rambada did an incredible job organizing the forum, which aims to create a more just and equitable country. Another Lopez sister making waves is Gelle Lopez Vargas—one of the Lopez Heritage Mansion.

For the Lopez Museum golden jubilee, Gelle coordinated the exhibit, "Filipinas," that set up installations, combining "how the Mexicans saw ourselves from a mural display site to a multi-sensory interactive ABS-CBN's Gay Dillon hosted the show with eight contemporary artists performing, based on iconic works from the Museum collection.

My favorite piece was the presentation of the two female figures in Juan Luna's "Espoliario Filipinas," performed by artist Jean Marie Syjuco's daughters Hanine and Trinnia. This three metamorphosed into Barbie dolls surrounding toward a video projection of images suggestive of colonial imperialism.

The rich and passionate interplay of emotional, performance, historical and contemporary art made for an unusual guide evening. I will be looking forward to visiting the Lopez Museum to see what's next to be unveiled.

Chekhov adaptation

Chatting about the ABS-CBN group brought to mind Singkaluning Pilipinas's "Tatong Martyr." The play, based on Rizal's classic of Antonio Chekhov's timeless classic, "Three Sisters."

"Tatong Martyr" runs until March 21 at the CCP's Little Theater. Premiere and Saturdays at 4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m. New York-based stage director and scenic designer Jose Antonio directs actors Bobby Guiterrez, Hidden Kanapi and Angeli Bayani, who top bill the cast. Tickets are available via Ticketworld at 891-9999 or the CCP at 832-1125/28/31.

If you happen to be reading this and want to feel a bit of Hollywood glam, check out the latest room displays of Canadian bed linens in Our Home at the Old Airport in Legaspi. Bear-scenting bedroom showcase offer higher thread counts for maximum comfort, and even a new antibacterial component for stress-free sleeping.

Canadiana is offering a 20-percent discount at Our Home until March 31, so if you want to sleep like a Hollywood star, check them out soon. This is the best way to bring a touch of Hollywood into your home!

E-mail the author at cwp@inquirer.com.ph.

JAIME Augusto Zobel, Lizzie Zobel, Eugenio Lopez III and Rina Lopez-Bautista

AUGUSTO Alfonso Lopez, Bobbie Delgado, GM Boers and Johnny Litton

OSCAR PL Lopez and Gelle Vargas

PRESENTACION L. Pascual and Margarita Fruguele

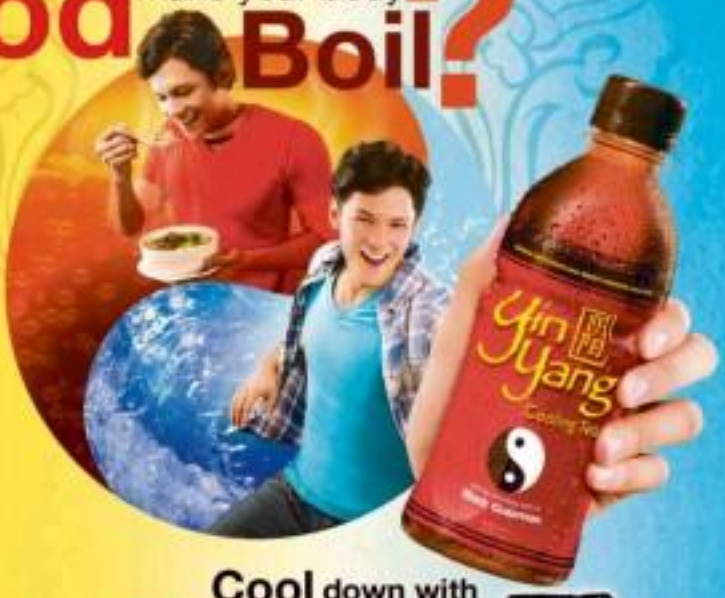
CANADIAN and Our Home family Ruel Zaragoza, Ina Princess, Flor Asuncion, Marlon Montenegro, Aiza Gonzales, Cora Rocio, Jay Lopez and Angie Hernandez

EXPERT outlet Canadian Housekeeping with Tina Montoya and Sue Peterson

NOTICE "Family Feud" on March 2: Jose (Dingdong Dantes, junior) with Shaina, Sea Princess, Bone Salud and Mikee Cojuangco

Check out Oliver Tolentino's website to see how he has brought RP fashion to Tinseltown

Does Hot food make your body Boil?



Cool down with New Yin Yang 阴阳 Cooling Tea

The natural way to help fight internal heat, which develops from eating hot food*.

What you eat can cause internal heat

The Chinese believe that good health begins with good balance in the body. Eating hot food alters the body's temperature and causes imbalance, resulting in what the Chinese refer to as "internal heat". When hot, the body should not be too quickly brought into contact with something cold, and vice versa. This interaction of "hot" and "cold" can cause illness, such as rheumatism.

The cooling power of Chinese plant extracts

To treat internal heat, traditional Chinese therapeutic practice relies on the cooling effects of certain Chinese plants.Mesona chinensis Benth, Camellia sinensis from natural Green Tea Leaves, Liquorice Root and Chrysanthemum Flower. These plants have been trusted through time to fight specific imbalances in the body. Once the heat is removed, the balance is achieved and good health is restored.

Cool down with New Yin Yang Cooling Tea

Now, all these cooling plant extracts are in a cool and refreshing ready to drink cooling tea that fights internal heat – new Yin Yang Cooling Tea! Restore your body's balance and counteract internal heat with its deliciously refreshing Black Guiaman (Grass Jelly) flavor that goes well with all your favorite meals.

So drink up, cool down and beat internal heat with new Yin Yang Cooling Tea!

helps **Restore & refresh** your body's balance **naturally!**

*According to traditional Chinese beliefs.

Lhuilliers' house on a hill–venue of grand celebrations

ONE OF THE most beautiful houses built in Cebu is probably that of Michel and Augustin Lhuillier on a hill with a 360-degree view of its surroundings. It is at Shaw Lahug Estate Park. Most of the furniture and sculptures come from their old house on Hemingway Street. Tried to spoke a collection of early oil paintings by Raul "Boy" Climbo, one of Cebu's most prominent painters.

The house has been the scene of celebrations, the most recent being Michel's birthday, "Just family, and Daddy was somehow lonely" said Augustin, when she called for the gathering. It started with appetizers and wines brimming with Don Perignon. Buffet line was by the Dusit team, and every guest on night were enchanted. They grew in splendid profusion in an adjacent garden which Michel made personally every morning, right before going to the office.

Another party was planned for a week late, or with double the number of guests, this time in honor French Ambassador Thierry Brana de Margerie, who'd be accompanied by Christian Hebrer, the French embassy's counselor for cooperation and cultural affairs. The time, Michel would be in his role as Prince's Honorary Consul in the Visayas. As the day approached and the weather became atmospherically unsafe and rainy, Augustin changed the venue to the Garnovias in Banilad.

It was a great party. Ambassador Brana de Margerie was at his most elegant, surrounded by staff from the embassy and Dilliance Francaise de Cebu director Lucas Thevenin with wife Dhanchet, and his assistant Aline Gauny. Its full attendance were officers of Dilliance of which Michel is president, among them Judge Nonato Aumentado, Wilson Tieu, Henry Lee and Rev. Fr. Quinsio Miranda, president of the University of San Carlos.

Cocktails and appetizers were served in the Top Room. It was a rare opportunity to meet, once more, Augustin's aunt visiting from the USA, Lady Jocelyn. She came with Leon Bocobo Armstrong, Wilson Tieu, Henry Lee and Rev. Fr. Quinsio Miranda, president of the University of San Carlos.

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Elsewhere Lhuillier was acknowledged as every Asian Wellness store, and in the store Hunt Enos, John Michael and Joanna Lhuillier just back from their visited holidays. Business was normal and everyone seemed to be maintaining area. For nothing, Augustin had announced, and we were happy to be with Cebu and Margarita Wang, Fr. Mercado, Christina and Duke Franco, Mayor of Cebu.

A late arrival and much fussed over was Ada Escudero, who exchanged pleasantries with the ambassador and gave him a T-shirt of the Villa Escudero Plantation of which he is the president and general manager. For starters, he lent a bag of goodies. She opened one box and shared some cheese "food for the gods." The canned bottle of mangosteen balls remained tightly sealed.

Memorandum of agreement

Next day was an important one for Dilliance Francaise de Cebu. At its premises at L/L, JC Pavilion, a memorandum of agreement was signed linking the Cebu Dilliance with Lyon-based network. Financial assistance is part of the package, for over two years, in promoted Les Institutes Pilotes runs under the direct support of Michel Lhuillier.

Signatories were Monsieur Brana de Margerie, Mme. Lhuillier and Thevenin. Chartered helped three were the directors of Dilliance in Cebu, and staff from the French embassy. Music, discussion, academic exchange attended. Hosa Cebu, cultural and artistic director, Fr. Quinsio Miranda, president of the University of San Carlos.

Dilliance Francaise de Cebu offer classes in the French language in various levels. There will be a summer schedule for children to keep busy during the forthcoming vacation time. Aside from that, there are cultural activities. One is a Ciné Club which regular film showings. Another is the course on French cuisine every Saturday afternoon with the qualified chef from France.

After the ceremonies, Ambassador Brana de Margerie expressed his desire to visit the Cebu branch of Lhuillier owned by Mr. Cosmos, a scion of Cebu City. It is a veritable zoo as well as a nature park with waterfalls and acres of blooming flowers of every exotic variety.

What else is up for Michel and Augustin? They are the most visible people, pro-active as to spread. Real fancy are more than there. A day in their lives is one spent working in their jewelry business, performing civic duties, and being gracious. Most evenings are spent at home with an irresistibly frugal dinner of vegetables, which may come from their Cebu estate farm. There, of course, there's that magnificent view that's where they live it.

They also make a grand route, perhaps the only one in the world, to fly to their destinations of which he is president for the Philippines, and also for the Cebu chapter. Next events is the induction gala set for March 9 at The Marquee of the Shangri-la in Manila. The dinner could probably be Heavenly Garden à la Chinois. Let's see, and let's taste.

After that, in mid-March, Michel and Augustin fly to Los Angeles for the baptismal of their latest grandchild, Sophia, daughter of Monique (nee Lhuillier) and Tom Hughes.

FRENCH Ambassador Thierry Brana de Margerie with Augustin and Michel Lhuillier

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Piccinnell

ASIAN FOOD CHANNEL LAUNCHES FIRST RETAIL STORE

"All Things the channel ever done is on viewer"

February 2010, Manila – The Asian Food Channel (AFC) launched its first retail store, AFC Kitchen Studio at Robert Centre in Singapore offering viewers from around the region a culinary wonderland they can taste and feel.

The store was will provide the ideal platform to further engage viewers, giving them a glimpse into the world of AFC and into culinary products, gadgets and tools, check out the latest in built-in kitchen appliances, as well as some delicious food and drink. The AFC Kitchen Studio Store also will stock which viewers will serve a variety of teas and coffee, together with pastries and cakes.

Kitchen products for sale in the store will comprise AFC merchandise, T-shirts, aprons, stationery, kitchen supplies and, naturally, the AFC-branded range of cookware, kitchenware, and utensils. Specially-sourced cookware, kitchenware and utensils will also be available in the store, as well as an exclusive range of cookery books from AFC featured chefs, such as Nigella Lawson, Lucas Cullen, Anthony Bourdain, Jamie Oliver and many more. A range of products that will appeal to everyone whatever level their culinary skills.

AFC will also use the store as the location for a variety of events on a regular basis – these are expected to include cookery demonstrations by AFC chefs and presenters, as well as the hosting of live viewing parties. The classes will be hosted by a range of professional chefs from Singapore and around the region, as well as special guest appearances by selected celebrity chefs featured on AFC.

Since the launch of AFC, more than four years ago, the channel has built a strong following of loyalty fans, with more than 20 million viewer throughout Asia. Now this ever-growing platform, and with its continued appeal to all viewer tastes, AFC has evolved, providing not only an excellent range of great programming, which is available on a selection of regional cable packages, but also now a retail store where fans can meet and feel the channel.

Ms Rowena Constantino, on the launch: "The AFC retail store is a place for everyone, whether you're a chef by profession or just love food. Here, you can meet your favorite AFC chefs, enjoy watching the Channel and even gather some things on with the brands it will appear in everyone."

sponsored by 123 Built to Appliance Store, a part of 123 Electronics Pte Ltd, a division of Singapore.

"Asia celebrates with AFC, the AFC Kitchen Studio at Orchard Central is the first Lifestyle concept showroom in Southeast Asia," said Mr. Arthur Huang, Corporate Marketing Director, 123 Electronics Asia. "As consumers increasingly embrace holistic appliances, integrating them into their environment to create a lifestyle, it's a great platform for showcasing our premium brand to lifestyle appliances, and we're delighted to partner with AFC to bring this concept together."

Expanded Kitchen, Singapore's leading player for consumer quality kitchen stores for global has unveiled its AFC Kitchen Studio, showcasing their innovative kitchen design, HOME Tech, Showcasing Hitachi refrigerator, microwave, and vacuum cleaner, Panasonic washer and dryer, and Electrolux cooker hood – all under one roof, collaboration with AFC because it enables customers and those who interest in creating a great culinary experience together.

As well as being used for culinary classes and demonstrations, the kitchen will also act as a studio for filming of AFC original cookery programmes and productions.

The AFC store is located at 181 Orchard Road, Orchard Central #03-03 Singapore and is open from 11am to 9pm daily.

For further information please contact:

Batangas churches for Holy Thursday Visita Iglesia

Visit seven churches in the province of Batangas on Holy Thursday, April 1. The last taken just Basilicas to be considered to the province's beautiful Catholic worship sites—the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Joseph in San Juan where a general play-over will be given for Redemption priest, Fr. Roberto Jocson, SVd, the Church of St. James the Apostle in Isuan; the Basilica Minore of the Infant Jesus and Immaculate Conception in Batangas City which houses Baca Ipiak images of the Santo Niño sculptings, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Boson, the Basilica of St. Martin de Tours in Taal, declared a National Shrine in 1974, the shrine of Our Lady of Caysasay, which houses the miraculous image of the Virgin Mary; and the Church of St. Raphael Archangel in Calaca which presents some of the best pastoral and church relations in the province.

The tour fee is P1,500 per person, inclusive of the Church Reconciliation activities accepted Car Inn Pinamis Tours Inc., tel. 426-1660 and 426-1661, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., or 908-7-857-40 91 and 908-7-0210000 after office hours.

Movie screening

"Cartoonstory Movie 3D" will be screened in March 10, 7:30 p.m., with the signature campaign and exhibit prize to screening beginning at 6:30 p.m. Venue is the Power Plant Cinema 4, Rockwell, Makati City.

Meetings at border hotel

The first hotel fitness the Philippines has launched its 2010 Live-to-Meeting Package, which guarantees savings to all, executive gather high in joy of its where fully equipped function rooms, with broadband wireless access and a complete selection range of audio-visual equipment.

The new live-to package offers one night accommodation on single or twin sharing, eight-hour use of the function room with LCD projector, lunch and dinner and afternoon snacks at a starting rate of P1,500 per person on twin sharing in a five-star hotel.

A special set-a- buffet dinner rate may also be scheduled. Groups confirmed within one month from date of reservations may have one complimentary room of each five. Minimum of 10 rooms per event required to avail of the package. Other terms and conditions apply. Call 830-3838.

WHAT'S Up

IN THIS ISSUE
■ The great 2010 makeover /C1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

My 'real beauty' moments

In 2002, they tried to make me wear a tube top that I thought was a headband. Today I'm glad I've been part of a campaign to enrich women

By Pam Pastor

IN 2002, I WAS SENT TO cover the Dove Moment event at Tagaytay Highlands. I dove into the assignment head-first, never mind that it aimed to "awaken the woman within" when I had never been ultra-feminine in my life, never mind that they tried to make me wear a tube top that I honestly thought was a headband.

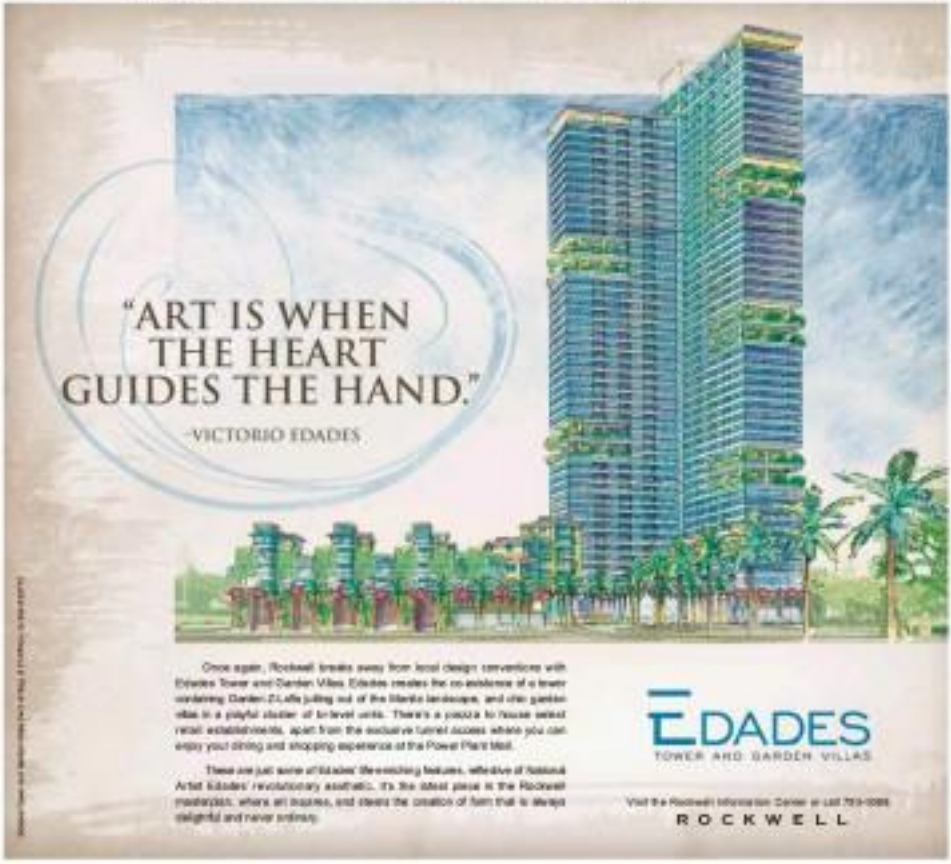
There I met women they called Dove Evolved Women, meditated, listened to inspirational talk, enjoyed a spa treatment and joined a soothing bathing ritual using Dove. It was a lovely experience that allowed me to leave my worries in the city and celebrate womanhood with a group.

Campaign for real beauty

I didn't know it then, but that was the start of what turned out to be my long and fruitful relationship with Dove.

In 2006, I was asked to be part of Dove's

MY 'REAL BEAUTY' /C2



A cruise, a childhood revisited

By John L. Silva
Cover Feature

The balcony juts out and I had the sensation of soaring in the dark indigo night, with millions of flickering stars guiding my flight... I was Peter Pan again

A WHOLE-DAY city tour is a wonderful diversion from the negotiative cruise on board.

THE LIBRARY has snuggly recliners and comfy reading chairs beside delightful floor lamps surrounded by bookshelves.

THE VERDI: 874-foot-long, it impressively hugs

OBYOTYPE: Jacob Sandoval, Leah Kelly Pliza, Premier's Agen Bongcaw, CEO Nicole de los Angeles, Mom's Audrey Carpio, Working Mom's Tina Varano, Photo Standard Today's John Rivera, SeventeenGirl Glenda Pliza guests, Dove Skin Simple manager Vanessa Fortes, Unilever PR & events manager Nikki Ilinda, Unilever marketing manager for Deodorants Cindy Palacerna, Unilever marketing manager for Skin/Hair Kate Ignacio, Dove Deodorant manager Brian Dennis, Manila Bulletin's Elaine Lee, Daily Tribune's Angelica Jimenez, Business Mirror's Tet Zamboanga, the author, Manila Peninsula Senior Carajan, Lifestyle Asia's Monique Andres

Merchants preview mall in Davao

MANILA AND CEBU-BASED merchants recently joined forces to preview one of the flagship projects of Avenida Corporation (corp., Abreeza Mall) Davao.

Retailers from fashion, food and service categories, including local and international brands that will open their first stores in Davao in the Abreeza Mall, were treated to a two-part event, beginning with a city visit to Abreeza, where construction is already unfolding.

After the site visit, the merchants were invited to an exclusive luncheon at the Pearl Farm Resort, led by representatives from the developer and the Ayala Group.

During the event, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, president and CEO of Ayala Land, Inc. shared that the 3.9-hectare Abreeza Mall is set to open in the second quarter of 2015. To date, over 80 percent of the 370,000-square-meter leasable space has already been leased out. Similar to Abreeza Mall's support for merchant partners.

To top off the activity, guests were treated to a special luncheon featuring Davao's best local fare. Guests were also entertained by the Davao Bamboo Ensemble as they enjoyed their al fresco lunch by the marina.

Present at the Abreeza Mall preview were the Robinsons Retail Group led by its president and CEO Robert Go-Kengsan Jr. Its team included another merchants Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Department Store, True Value and Toys R Us.

Over 200 retailers attended the event. Among them are Mantel Group, Inc. Watsons and Mercury Drug, Inc. Bench, Inc. Penshoppe, Human Nature, Inc. Fashion Accessories Network, Inc. Jollibee Group, Wilbros Inc. of Jollibee, Bayan Luc of the Bench Group and Dino Inquia of the Penshoppe Group. Also in the event were Mikki Ong, Jr. Bamboo, Inc. Island Body Shop, Ilo and Mrs. Lan Jr. Inc. of Gumbino, Bed Bouquet Inc. of RSC Bowers, Hometown, Botanical, Asiana, Bottle of Big and Small, Jimmy Lim of Asiaworkers, and Ruby Perez of Time Zone. In addition, Mr. & Mrs. Rob Tiu of Mobilia, Pedro Ong of Lucena Shoes, Brian Gerardo Tiu of Unlimited/CMG, and Bobby Co of Marcelle were also in attendance, as well as Cebu retailers like Camille Rodriguez of Island Boutique and Chris Alkuino of Locklit. Jacqueline of Machinko, Steve Bautista of Bo's Coffee and Jaden Ty-Kim of Café Laguna/Lemon Grass, where coffee shops and restaurants are opening their branches in Davao were also there. Mr. Francisco and Mrs. Agnes Bore in Davao, co-owners of, as agreed the activity. This included Ivan Dy of Luen-an, Tessa Pe Benito and Antonio Uitanchaodoco of the Provincial Times Group and Rodolfo Ferreras of SM. Cedric Go of BPI also brought her team to meet the merchants.

The Ayala Group was there too to welcome the merchants to Davao, led by Dan Antonio O. Fernandez Jr., Raymund Antonio R. Fernandez, vice chairman; Fernando B. Hernando, SVP & director; and Vincent B. Hernando, director. They were joined by Ateneo executives Alex Tolentino and Oscar Lopez.

After present during the event since senior executives from Ayala Land led by senior vice president of Ayala Corp. Bienvenido S. Rebuelta; Emilio J. Santiago, SVP & Head of Visayas; Marvin R. Antonino, SVP & group head of Ayala Malls Visayas-Mindanao; Ferdinand Tomobian, VP and Head of Business development of Ayala Malls; Francis Monsod, president of Cebu Holdings; Steve Dy, SVP of Ayala Land Business-types, Jed Hernandez, SVP of Ayala Malls; and Cloyd G. Tongco, GM of Abreeza Mall.

Located at the northern fringe of Davao's economic center, Abreeza Mall is the Ayala Malls' first foray in Mindanao and is part of a 10-ha property master planned to be a mixed-use development located in the north of Davao, the economic hub of the city, with a five-story BPO building soon to rise as well.

The Abreeza development is a project of Avenida Commercial Corp., a joint-venture company owned by Ayala Land and the Aboitiz Group.

GEORGE Mitosi, Rajin Mitosi, Avenida Merchandiser (Province Times)

CLAVEL Tongco, GM of Abreeza Mall, to ink the Cebu Laguna and Lemon Grass teams.

JEVI Hernandez with Dr. Dawn Mish Gan (SAOC_PHOC) and Dr. Carol Ann Cruz (SAOC-Phils's Branch)

My 'real beauty' moments

From page F1

Campaign for Real Beauty. "How does someone tell you to be a fat girl in a real body's campaign without offending you?" I laughed because I did see offense.

It didn't occur to me to think twice. With Dale Bandilla, Nicole Princess Luis Banda, Precious Pearl Sella Sagucio and Nina Lucena, 24, I became part of the project that broke ground for Dove's Self-Esteem Fund, which was devoted to changing narrow definitions of beauty and to showing little girls that they may be different but they are still beautiful, for that cannot I was ready to do everything ... even pose in my underwear.

Luckily, Dove didn't ask me to do that.

I never, in every shoot self-esteem and my experiences with beauty stereotypes for the Campaign for Real Beauty with me. "I've never broken down and cried because someone called me fat. Challenge to women: anorexia is not beautiful. I never ever, ever, ever, ever, ever. I never use my size as disadvantage. I never let it stop me from doing what I wanted and discovering what I was good at. I didn't need to be real diets to attain. I certainly didn't need to lose weight to sing," I wrote.

At the campaign launch, I wore a Dove shirt with the words "I thrive because I'm me. Be happy" emblazoned on it and answered forum questions from Dove Ahmada about self-esteem and falling in love with one's flaws.

Body talk

I continued to be active with Dove in 2007, as Body Talk, Personal Dove also went to the Dove Self-Esteem Fund, to hold self-esteem workshops for girls. I thought this was brilliant...because the Dove Self-Esteem Fund addressed women in care for the self-esteem of and find out which part of Japan he came from Dad loved his magical stuff. A mixture. That dad was Filipino!

That means the girl moment to talk about our compassion on this ship-and on many of the best cruise ships around the world. Once you've spotted us as fellow Filipinos, the ensuing bonanza you personal [illegible] fun stuff, customary exchanges, favorite dishes, news about home as a familiar language goes in, like comfort food, an immediate advantage over the rest of the passengers. This is not to say that any fellow Australasians aren't fabulous ship-mates, but when a couple's on a world without of it my assessment seems biased, you can check out their public score with photographs of some exciting Filipinos on board and on the itinerary List.

Signing up for a shore tour, as I did for a whole-day Penang city tour, is a wonderful diversion from the negotiative cruise onboard. That morning, number took us from the ship to shore, efficiently directed at to our bus, and with a Malaysian guide with a chic wit, we got a marvelous tour of the city's colonial architecture, Buddhist temples, and a ride-show ride through charming streets.

Our guide never missed a chance to mention ship in the right away, our customarily finds on our satisfaction message.

But it's the precision floating world of childhood once again, three summer nights, the shipboard laughter and a carefree cocktail environment that made this trip memorable. Take it and you can also.

For further information on Dingo cruises as well as all other star Cruises, log on to https://www.starcruises.com.

The second time around

By Elizabeth Lalanga
Contributor

A BRIDE IN BLACK, HER groom with his ex-fiddler, goofy ushers shimmying down the aisle to what otherwise should be a synchronically solemn wedding march. The pastor and a laughing congregation on their feet clapping to the beat of the theme from the musical "Mamma Mia!" Revelers at the reception dancing till their feet hurt to Motown music played by a live band.

To say the exchange of vows between romancers Waya Arroyo, 38, and bossing Brian Wijangco, 55, both veterans of previous relationships and each with their own set of children, at celebrating his booking a lot of conventions is an understatement.

Let's begin with the invitations. The printed ones arrived by messenger. The event was billed as "Pum Pum St. Pum" in blackboth (TB), the title coming from the strains of Lohengrin's Wedding March and the informal name of Waya's gang of hardworking women who know what fun is. Those without TB or couples were shoyed through text messages. The RSVPs were done through two-way 224-centavo mail-in.

The number of people present was small by the party to be intimate yet big enough to be called a shared community event. For godparents, they chose two long-time family friends and associates who know the couple's history: businessman Steve Salonga, who once actually stood in a Rhumba duet, and philanthropist Natividad B. Gonzaga who couldn't at first believe that she was told to wear a black dress, not a gown.

Waya said, "I knew I didn't want to wear white. Nor did I want to impose on our parents by asking a color like turquoise." She bought her off-the-rack, ankle-length dress, 20 percent off, at Rebecca Isaac. Brian got his white shirt with circular prints from an online sale at Greenbelt boutique.

Her father Amy, the 80-year-old sculptor, was the most formally garbed with his tuxedoed suit, long-sleeve shirt and dress pants. He explained, "I tried to look as old as I could so I could truly pass for a father in-law, not a brother-in-law." He referred to the 18-year difference between him and Emily.

That's one no-no Mildred pointed out. Brian and Waya invited her parents to lunch, and he said, "I'm not asking your permission. You just looking your knees."

Her Mom Mia strategy told them gathered that the couple chose scripted readings (Ruth 1:6-18; Corinthians 13: 4-13 and Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8) and a portion of an excerpt from Gibran's "The Prophet" (but still personally meaningful to them. Here the ensemble "Mamma Mia!" theme is again set because, Brian said, "Silver look on and dances." Plus it effectively dispelled the groom's jitters. With prayer pending, he would've sensed "When All is Said and Done" the way Pierce Brosnan did in the movie.

When asked if he cries on his love will to find himself forever in the love and service of Waya, Brian broke away from the script, pulled up his chest and declared, "Yes, I cry, truly do." The congregation again broke out laughing. Her missing a beat, Rhianna, again reported, "Technically, that's a good answer."

Which brings us to how they met and reached that point on Jan. 8 at the Alabang Hillside Leisure clubhouse in Quezon City. In 1998, Waya was based in Malaysia for a project on community-based forestry management. Brian was with the US Agency for International Development in a John Lennon concert in Puerto Princesa, they found themselves in a double-date but with different partners. He girlfriend then was Waya's friend.

In 2000, they ran into each other at a taxi station on Kalayaan Avenue. They learned they lived not far from each other, she at the UP campus and he at Loyola Grand Villas. Before long, he'd drop by her place but to her it seemed all business—he wanted her marketing savvy in helping sell his signature cars.

WAYA and Brian shimmy down the aisle to the tune of "Mamma Mia!"

WAYA and Brian flanked by their children (from left) Rebecca, Aidan, Mica and Ilona; at left photo, Waya and Brian Wijangco.

Waya said, "I wasn't certain he was courting me because it was all friendly banter for a year." The next year, he asked Waya out for dinner at Tin Hulo's, kissed her cuddles from the lips and didn't call for a week.

When he did call, Ilona is invite her to call out at a stall for the Love-a-palooza meet number of kissing couples event at Ilona Boulevard on Valentine's Day. She missed the cooler and sent 100 as arranged coins along with the rest of coin. That was when she understood that they were going steady.

As the relationship deepened, they went on out-of-town camping trips with the children in Antipolo, Nueva Ecija, Los Baños, Bohol, among others, until they graduated to boutique hotels.

They found romancing ground in these concerts for the environment. Brian is with the United Nations Environment Program and assigned to Afghanistan, where he sets up national parks, identifies cures for cheese and drums up management plans to preserve or enhance existing parks. In this post, he makes back to two-week leave every six weeks.

When said, "I am capable of being warm for only two weeks or by the time the temperature seems all he is getting ready to leave."

An unusual thing about the reception is Waya caused it herself from out of her house and rented out kitchens.

In lieu of gifts, the couple requested donations, to their Damayan drive would be appreciated. Waya said, "They're the in depressed group with a very low survival rate. Their culture and they themselves are dying. They're so marginalized. Basic self-esteem should first be raised."

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My 'real beauty' . . .

▶ to page F2

least their appearance; 51 percent said that whatever they feel bad about themselves, it is usually tied to their weight-related, 40 percent were insecure about their body weight; 40 percent had issues with their body shape; and compared to other Asian women, Filipino were shown to be the most dissatisfied with their skin tone.

Dove Retrospective

Last month, eight years after my first Dove Moment, I returned to Tagaytay Highlands for Dove Retrospective. The event allowed us to spend time with Dove women Christine Jacob-Sandejas, Sayoni Campos and Maude Kanavier and look back on Dove's history of redefining women's beauty and promoting confidence in the Philippines.

Unilever Category Head for Skin Nini Rabuffetti said: "We'll continue what we've been doing for the past years, and we have more, or about beauty and we're bringing new products to women."

Unilever recently introduced Dove Beauty Bar is now said even more affordable price. Dad said: "A lot of women want to use Dove and that biggest barrier is that it's not as affordable as the other options. We made Dove more affordable so we can reach more women. From P55, we made it P45."

To mark Dove's 60th year in the country, Unilever also launched Dove Deodorant, completing its total beauty package. Here Dr. Adonai give women a lot of choices—Original, Unscented and Cucumber & Green Tea and Grapefruit & Lemongrass from the to Fresh range. It comes in Dove Extra—roll-on, stick and spreads.

Cindy Mekeowan, Unilever Category Head for Deodorants, said: "It's more than just a deodorant, it's beauty treatment for your underarms. It gives you superior skin care but there's no compromise on the efficacy. We have protection from odor and sweaty. Our deodorants contain, but can in addition that are known to maximize visibility smoother, softer, more even-toned skin. If you trust Dove for your hair care and body care, you should be able to trust Dove deodorant as well."

'Picture'

We enjoyed the benefits of Dove's skin care products—deliciously hydrated—with a special pit-stop at Tagaytay Highlands' Spa Lodge. A pleasure to a spa treatment for the underarms. The picture includes cleansing, exfoliation and a massage. Some of us were worried about being riddled in the process but Ultimate relaxing—as relaxing that I fell asleep during the treatment.

Cindy talked about the pleasure and the importance of caring for one's underarms. "It was a very fresh experience. Your underarm are probably one of the most overlooked and neglected parts of your body. And yet, if you have on-to-pretty underwear, it's such a major concern for women. All you really have to do is bring back the moisture that you take out when you shave and wax."

Dove's 53-year journey has been remarkable but for Unilever and the countless Dove women in the country, it's only beginning. Dad said: "So you'll see here down, already and there's so much to be proud of but there's still so much to do. Let's pushed and preached we're looking forward to the next 10 years."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bernie G. Yalamo

National Arthritis

"COMEDY Guy" Dolphy on the title that's been eluding him: "Hindi ko sila umaasa sa National Arthritis. Irrational Arthritis na lang. Pero kung ibibigay nila, marunong akong tumanggap."

OVERHEARD

JOHNNY Depp in "Alice in Wonderland"

Johnny Depp as the Mad Hatter

LOS ANGELES—JOHNNY DEPP recently revealed details about the documentary he is making on Keith Richards, the Rolling Stones legend who inspired his Captain Jack Sparrow character in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies.

"The Keith Richards documentary came about in a very strange way," the actor told us in an interview at the Renaissance Hotel in Hollywood. "Keith and I have spent a lot of time together over the years, whenever he's off the road and I'm off a film. We would usually end up in the living room of his hotel suite or my house or his place in New York. We would talk and I got all these incredible stories that just haven't made it out there to the world. I suggested to him that maybe we could try something like that on film and he went, 'Yeah.' For a number of years, he was like, 'Yeah, we'll see.' Finally, three films, he designed to give it a shot so it's something that we're doing together."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rodney U. Nogales

"Keith has been unbelievably generous with his time," Johnny said of the rock guitarist. "We shot for about five days which I remember the first installment of the piece. The only reason why I'm doing it is because I wanted to capture stuff [Keith] was throwing really."

Johnny will be back as Captain Jack in a fourth "Pirates" movie.

JOHNNY DE

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Changes mark Bb. Pilipinas 2010

By Aveen Adina

MORE CHANGES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED in the 2010 Binibining Pilipinas pageant.

After the early selection of official contestants almost two months before coronation night, there is now a special pre-pageant show, to be telecast tonight at 10:30 p.m. on GMA 7.

Ali Sotelo Dedicatoria, program manager for official network partner GMA 7, said they proposed the idea to Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc. (BPCI). "In the past, the coronation night usually ran for about four hours. Having the pre-pageant conversation will shorten the final night by about 30 minutes," she told Inquirer.

In entertainment during the candidates' press presentation recently at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza in Pasay City.

The swimsuit and evening gown parade will be incorporated in the pre-pageant night.

"Viewers should still look forward to the pre-pageant, where the winners of special awards will be announced," the network official said.

The regional costume competition also returns this year after being scrapped in 2009. The costumes will be executed by different Pilipino designers. The first is Bernard Carreon named will also be given during the pre-pageant, "Dedicatoria added.

Genny Marcial, corporate affairs and HR manager of BPCI's parent organization Asiavia Group, said the staging of pre-pageant conversation was a mutual decision of GMA 7 and the pageant officials. "This will give the public more time to get to know the candidates," she said.

Idea from Miss U 'clit

The idea was actually adapted from the Miss Universe pageant, which has been holding televised pre-pageant show for the past several years to feature the swimsuit and evening gown competition. Other countries, including pageant-crazy Venezuela, do the same.

Dedicatoria promised a "world-class" pageant for viewers through both the pre-pageant and coronation night. She added: Wala na kaming sinasabing

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INQUIRER ENTERTAINMENT

Depp as the Mad Hatter

From page D1

"I signed on without a script but then was going to be based on the script," he clarified. "If the script were a real dog, I wouldn't've do[ne] it. Very happily for me, they've involved me in the creative process, in terms of developing the script. They've been very welcoming to having me come in and give some ideas."

Stimulating experience

Asked about working again with Penelope Cruz in the latest installment titled "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," the actor answered, "I'm looking forward to it. I think it's going to be great. I've run into Penelope here and there over the years. She's so funny, sweet and broad. Tal to ever. I had a wonderful time with her on the movie 'Blow.' She was a lot of fun because you really can't anything up here with regard to a scene and she'd catch it and I[now watching equally surprising back. It was a very stimulating experience for me."

In Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland," Johnny adds the Mad Hatter to his list of colorful eccentric characters. Burton retooled the tragic story behind his character framed by Lewis Carroll in the 19th century from the books "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass."

Johnny explained: "The M is 'Mad' superseded necessary for the Hatter. In those days, the hatters used a very toxic glue which contained mercury and which rendered them mad."

To play the pivotal part in Burton's vision of Alice's wonderland, a digitally-created environment inhabited by White Rabbit, Dormouse, Jabberwocky, Bluish Hare and Dodo, Johnny had to act against a tennis ball on a piece of tape in a green screen room.

Johnny said that he welcomed the challenge of acting with inanimate objects. "When you're working in an environment that is potentially so absurd and ludicrous, something happens for example, if Tim doing a scene with a tennis ball, something happens that in every difference has equally as interesting. I've always been fine with being in a green sound stage surrounded by this horrific odor green whereas the majority of the actors and the crew are sick to their stomachs by the end of the day. I enjoyed it because it was so weird that I think it helped what I was doing with Hatter. It was so bizarre."

Trusting his instincts

He shrugged what he thought the Mad Hatter looks like. "But only after time he did that was with Captain Jack. He said, 'Write any characters you want to get these images of what you think they should be. No matter how far out they go, especially with something like this, you have to take your instincts and I did. So my mind was terrible paintings—with the orange hair, different colors around his eyes—little' really change from who we eventually came up with. Tim and I got together. Miraculously, his little drawings of the Hatter were very similar to my watercolor paintings. I know we were on the right page."

In our chat, Johnny also shared that he was excited about appearing for the first time with Angelina Jolie in a movie, "The Tourist," a drama-thriller being filmed in France. There's but Jolie about the film because Johnny and he golina are two of cinema's most charismatic, attractive actors.

And we were finally to see Johnny and his wife, singer-actress Vanessa Paradis, in a movie, as disclosed. "The title will be 'My American Love.' It's based on a relationship between Giacomo de Simonetti and Ms. Arquette, who were also good friends and remembers as we could get without even crying. We're in the very early stages.

The meetings have gone beautifully. Vanessa has done a lot of research on Dr. Brunwick." Mr. and Mrs. Depp in a film about the love affair between the American novelist and the French writer and philosopher? We're there!

Caribbean hideaway

Our salon is currently busy lining up projects. He hasn't another year one: "Tim and I have teased the idea for Dark Shadows' over the years. It was a TV program in the States in the late '60s and early '70s that I remember watching as a kid. I was obsessed with this character, Barnabas Collins, who was a vampire. I came to find we many parallels than what he was a kid. Tim can better like I did to watch that Gothic soap opera. It was a very strange thing back then."

He added, "We landed at many stops, story-wise. We're excited to come up with something interesting. If all goes well, I will jump into that toward the end of this year."

When all these projects bog him down, Johnny likes off to the island in the Caribbean or to his retreat in the South of France. "We have a great place down in the South," he said. "It's a little hamlet, about 15 hectares. When I go there, I don't do anything. I wake up and check the garden, see the vegetables growing. It's a pristine existence. I never talk about movies. Maybe importantly the phone never rings. So value the hidden out on walks or picnics. It's the perfect existence. It's very beautiful, people like it's real. I'm relaxed."

ENTERTAINMENT

"GENTLE critic" Ellen DeGeneres

Kara: Ellen is doing really great

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

KARA DIOGUARDI has only nice things to say about fellow "American Idol" judge Ellen DeGeneres.

"Ellen brings a sense of humor, of course. But I also think she knows more about music than we think she does," Kara told us yesterday during a recent celebrity visit. "She has a really good handle on whether a contestant has potential and star quality. She did an incredible job on her first day, delivering criticism with kindness."

Kara was also quick to dismiss rumors of Ellen and Simon Cowell having beefs. "You have to take every rumor you hear about 'Idol' with a grain of salt," she said. "They usually aren't true."

How would you compare Ellen to Paula [Abdul]?

Paula and Ellen are completely different [from each other]. They both bring something valuable to the table.

Is there an Adam Lambert this year?

The contestants were interesting enough from the get-go in audition week. They were making some risks, and maybe that is because of Adam, but that's definitely a sign of good artists.

Are you more relaxed in your own role? Do you have more expectations for this season, as a

KARA to

KARA DioGuardi is keeping her cool (and

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1 IT'S COMPLICATED	1 THE WOLFMAN	
2 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	2 ARMORED	
3 DEAR JOHN	3 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	
4 ARMORED	4 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	
5 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	5 DEAR JOHN	
	6 VALENTINE'S DAY	
	7 INFESTATION	
	8 PLANET 51	
CITY MANILA	FAIRVIEW	CITY SAN LAZARO
1 ARMORED	1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	1 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
2 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	2 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	2 ARMORED
3 INFESTATION	3 IT'S COMPLICATED	3 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
4 DEAR JOHN	4 ARMORED	4 VALENTINE'S DAY
5 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	5 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	
6 VALENTINE'S DAY	6 DEAR JOHN	
	7 VALENTINE'S DAY	
CITY EL NIDO	EASTWOOD	CITY MILITIA
1 ARMORED	1 ARMORED	1 ARMORED
2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
4 DEAR JOHN	4 DEAR JOHN	4 DEAR JOHN
5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
VALENZUELA	CITY EAGLE	CITY MILITIA
1 ARMORED	1 ARMORED	1 ARMORED
2 DEAR JOHN	2 DEAR JOHN	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
4 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	4 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	4 DEAR JOHN
5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY

luzon

CITY FAIRVIEW	CITY LIPA	CITY LUCENA
1 ARMORED	1 ARMORED	1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 DEAR JOHN
3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 DEAR JOHN	3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
4 DEAR JOHN	4 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	4 ARMORED
5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY
CITY CLARK	CITY BATANGAS	CITY IMUS
1 ARMORED	1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	1 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 BLIND SIDE	3 ARMORED
4 DEAR JOHN	4 DEAR JOHN	4 DEAR JOHN
5 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY
CITY DASMA	CITY STA. ROSA	CITY MARILAO
1 ARMORED	1 ARMORED	1 ARMORED
2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 DEAR JOHN
3 DEAR JOHN	3 DEAR JOHN	3 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
4 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	4 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	4 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY
CITY TRECE	CITY BACOLOD	BALIWAG
1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
2 DEAR JOHN	2 DEAR JOHN	2 DEAR JOHN
3 ARMORED	3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
4 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	4 VALENTINE'S DAY	4 ARMORED
5 VALENTINE'S DAY		5 VALENTINE'S DAY
NAVA	CITY CABU	CITY ILOILO
1 DEAR JOHN	1 BLIND SIDE	1 BLIND SIDE
2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 VALENTINE'S DAY	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	3 DEAR JOHN
4 ARMORED	4 ARMORED	4 ARMORED
5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 DEAR JOHN	5 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
ROSARIO	CITY DAGUPAN	CITY BACOLOD
1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	1 DEAR JOHN
2 DEAR JOHN	2 DEAR JOHN	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
4 ARMORED	4 ARMORED	4 ARMORED
5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY

visayas + mindanao

CITY DAVAO	CITY CEBU	CITY ILOILO
1 ARMORED	1 ARMORED	1 BLIND SIDE
2 DEAR JOHN	2 DEAR JOHN	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	3 ARMORED
4 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	4 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	4 DEAR JOHN
5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY
CAGAYAN DE ORO	CITY BACOLOD	
1 ARMORED	1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	
2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	
3 DEAR JOHN	3 DEAR JOHN	
4 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	4 ARMORED	
5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY	

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4 ARMORED	9 PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF
5 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	10 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY

MANILA | METRO EAST

MANILA	METRO EAST
1 IT'S COMPLICATED	1 IT'S COMPLICATED
2 ARMORED	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	3 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
4 THE WOLFMAN / PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS	4 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
5 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	5 ARMORED
6 VALENTINE'S DAY	6 THE WOLFMAN / PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS
7 INFESTATION	7 INFESTATION
	8 PLANET 51

NOVALICHES | FORUM ROBINSONS

NOVALICHES	FORUM ROBINSONS
1 ARMORED	1 ARMORED
2 INFESTATION	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
3 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	3 IT'S COMPLICATED
4 PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF	4 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE

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2 INVICTUS	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
3 ARMORED	3 THE MESSENGER: THE SCARECROW
4 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	4 LOVE HAPPENS
	5 CASE 39

DASMARIÑAS | STARMILLS

DASMARIÑAS	STARMILLS
1 ARMORED	1 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 ARMORED
3 PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF	3 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
4 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	4 LOVE HAPPENS
	5 THE WOLFMAN
	6 PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF

IMUS | ANGELES

IMUS	ANGELES
1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	1 PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF
2 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
3 PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF	3 FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
4 ARMORED	4 ARMORED

TACLOBAN | DUMAGUETE

TACLOBAN	DUMAGUETE
1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	1 CINQUE DU FEAR: HAMPAS SAKASTAN
2 SHERLOCK HOLMES	2 PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF
3 PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF	3 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY

BACOLOD | ILOILO

BACOLOD	ILOILO
1 ARMORED	1 ARMORED
2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	2 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
3 LOVE HAPPENS	3 THE BLIND SIDE
4 PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF	4 LOVE HAPPENS
5 VALENTINE'S DAY	5 VALENTINE'S DAY
6 THE MESSENGER: THE SCARECROW	

GENSAN

1 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
2 THE IMAGINARIUM OF DR. PARNASSUS
3 VALENTINE'S DAY
4 THE WOLFMAN

ILOCOS NORTE

1 THE MESSENGER: THE SCARECROW
2 THE BLIND SIDE
3 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY

LaBelle on 'AI' judges

Patti LaBelle

NEW YORK — PATTI LABELLE THINKS some people shouldn't be on "American Idol" — and she's not talking about the contestants.

"Some of the judges, I don't think they're qualified to even judge," she said in an interview Wednesday.

The veteran R&B diva wouldn't say which judge she thought was lacking on the hit Fox show, which has Simon Cowell, Randy Jackson, Ellen DeGeneres and Kara DioGuardi picking America's top singers. Tuesday's "Idol" episode saw 12 female semifinalists competing.

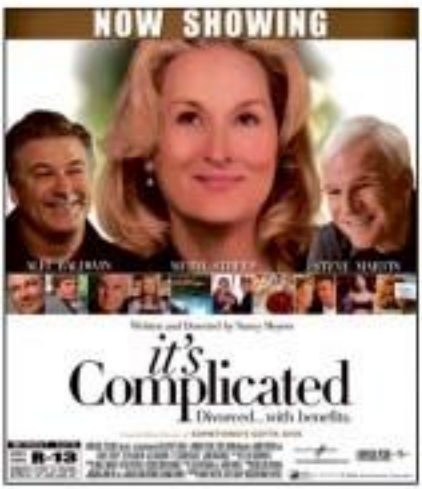
LaBelle said she was asked to be a judge on the series before Paula Abdul, a cop for the show had no comment on whether she was. LaBelle feels like the judges' comments to the contestants are too mean.

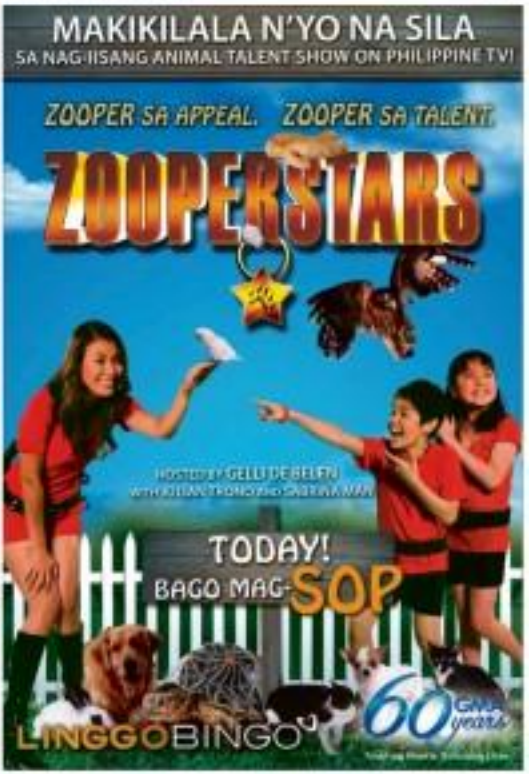
"The comments that were made, they could make you, like, wanna kill yourself," the 65-year-old singer said.

LaBelle's advice to singers hopefuls: "If you believe in yourself, just go for it. What do you have to lose? And when people tell you 'You can't,' you have to say 'I can.'"

AP

OVERHEARD





This player gives a tribute to

...ew meaning to 'hands-off' policy

Not the best 'Starstruck' season

IT WAS DEFINITELY "MIXED emotions" time for me when I caught the "Starstruck 5" finals last week. Ever since the talent discovery hit started, my eye was on its main bets Sarah Lahbati and Princess Snell, as I was pleased to watch their careers catapulted off with the top fantasy plum.

On the other hand, male winner Steven Silva was not my least likely to succeed list, so I was surprised, to say the least, when he bagged the top male award.

Why such a contradictory combination of winners? Well, when a skit's verdict is largely decided by viewers' vote (and the subjective output of "mass-generating machines"), expect the completely unexpected!

We developed an early preference for Sarah not just because she was a looker, but also because she was one of the best singers in the competition. That may not be saying much, because many of the finalists couldn't sing a note to save their lives, but that notion must nevertheless be paid to one of the better vocalists in the annual bunch.

And, much to her credit, Sarah was one of the few (or was she the only one?) to sing live in the skit's final show, as Lahbati bet.

Sarah Lahbati

What almost favors that didn't allow us to warm up to him? He was an electric skinny, awkward and untrained, and like many other Filipino teenagers, wouldn't mind flunking well.

Frankly, we've had it up to here with actors who don't bother to learn to speak the language before they come here to try their luck in local showbiz. So we like mixed-breeds at the latest cultural apocalypse in hit our shores.

To be fair, his flunking did "no good" in the course of the skit —but not nearly well enough for him to do well in real-time in the life right after winning the "Starstruck 5" tilt.

Having said all that, we must conclude that "Starstruck 5" wasn't the title's best edition—not by a long shot. Three lists, we believe that as television creators should be drastically overhauled, so, too, their homer and manager discoveries, to wit:

Instead of talking for audiences and then announcing to finalists for its own edition, "Starstruck" should insert a big post-audition hot pot-finale step, during which the best auditionees will be given intensive training in different aspects of performance.

Periodically, the 100 initial survivors will be whittled down to the best 70, 60, then 50 — during which the best training continues. This process can take months, because its objective is to produce, not raw finalists, but talents who have already undergone rigorous training and evaluation long before they are even introduced to the viewing and voting public.

If the long training and selection process we are suggesting is done well, the title's 50 survivors should already be a pretty good bunch of talents.

But, the weekly-show process should continue —down to the last six, seven, 30, 20— and then the "official" 13 finalists.

It is hoped that, with this longer, much more rigorous training and selection process, the lift will be able to produce finalists who not only look good, but are also truly gifted singers, actors and/or dancers. Otherwise, "Starstruck" will just continue to be much

MUSICAL director Homer Dimaro (L) supervises rehearsals on keyboards. Above, Mitch Valdes and Nanette Inventor run through their songs for the show "Juicy Cat Dolls."

Juicy, no preservatives added

By Pachalo Catsiopinit
Photos by Jet Guzon Pumarian

"CAN YOU SEE THAT IN STRIPTEASE THIS 20?" asks Nanette Inventor, rehearsing the dance for "Last Dance," with Mitch Valdes on keyboards, in a Quezon City studio.

Just the thought of Nanette adding exotic moves to the song is hyper-enough as it is.

"But you'll be taking straight singing as well," says Mitch Valdes-Pilita, like Nanette, is unusually garbed in loose clothes and sneakers.

The rehearsal is for a series of shows dubbed "Juicy Cat Dolls (Fin Perseverantes)," which opened recently and continues on March 6 at Onstage Greenbelt 3, Makati, and April 17 at the CAP Grand Auditorium, Davao City.

Pilita Corrales and Cynthia Patag complete the "Juicy Cat Dolls" cast.

No more seasoning

Pilita couldn't make it to the rehearsal. Cynthia, when used to have retired in Iloilo, has agreed to appear as a guest.

"The whole point of the show," Mitch explains, "is that we, as women of substance and experience, have so much to give (we're also trying to find their own symphony."

Nanette and Mitch have been playing around with words: "I feel that we're in the season of our lives so we don't need seasoning anymore, because we have been seasoned by our experiences and we have matured enough for our souls ... But although [we] no longer [need] the seasoning, there is so much to bring to [our] juicy performances."

Mitch says the show was conceived by Maestrolive Romeo's Maestrobia, local concert promoter in the 1950s and '60s), which believes people would like to watch musical comedy revues, although the dispensing mood created by nanettes last year.

The inclusion of Pilita marries Mitch. This their first time to work together in a show.

As a young singer in night clubs in Roxas Boulevard in the 1970s, Mitch recalls that her goddess days was finding the right duties. "I was a macho looking hippie and had no long guitars and other costumes. Pilita was the lesbian, Tyler Cornelio, first my children. Her long, ang ating sing constructed for Ang Pilita, Pagsuyo Samora Jo as sung shows ang Asia's Queen of Song."

Mitch adds that her performing style was patterned after vaudeville stars like Mary de la Cruz, whom she used to see in the courses of 1950s.

Nanette and Mitch first worked together in 1984 in the musical comedy show "I'll Be Im." Before that, they were in the cast of a local production of "Three Penny Opera" at the Metropolitan Theater. And, way before that, Nanette sang backup for a whole range of pop stars including Celeste Legaspi, Pamil Valdez, Carmen Soriano, Anthony Castelo, Boy Plata, Imelda Papin, Eva Eugenio and, yes, Pilita.

Training ground

Nanette loved singing so much, that while studying foreign Service at the University of the Philippines, she joined the UP Concert Chorus. "Performing around the world with the group was my training ground," she recounts. "Immediately after graduating, I landed a job in a government agency just sing moonlight also as gab as a backup singer."

Along with Julius Mojica, Nanette was in a group of singers called Filipina, which was

KINKY! Jackson, Kara, Ellen and Simon Cowell. "It's an honor to sit next to Ellen," says Kara.

Kara: Ellen is ...

From page B1

Judge?

Kara: Definitely more relaxed and more comfortable because I'm a little bit more used to being in front of television. In terms of my expectations, I've kept them open. There was a new judge in every audition city and in Hollywood Week, we finally had Ellen. I just want to stay open to everything and be in the moment and try to be the best judge I could be.

What do you think would be a good mentor for this year?

I think Sunny Cantrick-Ly would be great, especially for standards as maybe even more. I mean, Mariah? I think he'd be fun for rock because I've worked with him in the studio. We recorded a song recently, and he brought out a different side of me, you'd be like a background in method acting, and he kind of applies it to singing and performance. I think those two would be pretty good.

What are your thoughts on on the rumor that Howard Stern will join "Idol" next year?

Right now, that's [just] a rumor. I don't think he has a musical background or any kind of music anything, and I think that if you're going to replace Simon, you have to have that background. You have to know about signing great artists and being a part of their careers from the very beginning to the very end, like he's done with talents like Leona Lewis.

Just for fun, if you could axe Ellen as a judge ...?

I'm not going to [do that]. I think she's doing great.

There have been rumors of tension between Ellen and Simon.

Any rumor you hear about "American Idol," you have to take with a grain of salt. They're usually not true. Last year, it was Keys and Paula fighting, have each other 12's ridiculous. We're here to do our thing, and that's to find the greatest "American Idol" winner, and I know Ellen and Simon both take that seriously.

What is the biggest mistake contestants make during Hollywood Week?

It's definitely song choice. They take on something that's way too big for them. Or they go through the auditions rounds and we [see] how great they are, and then they decide to completely change when they get to Hollywood Week. Also, the [is] that they stand on the stage, and they can't fill it up. They can't perform. They can't project.

How do you think Ellen is changing the dynamics in the judging?

I spent five days with her—many, many hours. What you're seeing is an edited-down version of what happened, and there are specific reasons that the producers put certain scenes in and [not the others]. I think the dynamic will develop over time. That's what's going to make it such an exciting season, [but it's very unpredictable. You don't know what's going to happen.

A lot of the producers, and Randy Jackson in particular, have been saying things like, they would like to see a girl win this year. Do you have a preference?

I would love to see a girl win. I think that this year, or especially what's going on in music currently, it's the women's music music—Taylor Swift, Beyonce, Rihanna, Katy Perry, Lady Gaga. You have these very unique women at the forefront of the industry. They have their own voices, their own styles. Looking at the pool of talent this year, it's a similar situation. But I also do think that the men are very good, solid singers. I do think it's a lot easier to break females than men, so some of their records over the show is done.

American Idol airs Wednesday and Thursday on Channel 2 at 9 p.m. with prime time encore on the same day at 11 p.m. and 11 p.m.

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Artistic merit back on top of MMFF criteria

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IN A MEETING OF THE EXECOM—the committee of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) early this week, a new breakdown of the criteria for Best Picture was approved.

According to Execom members Boots Anson-Roa and Bai Cascaljan, "the new criteria puts premium back to creative and technical merit as opposed to previous years' which gave more weight to commercial appeal."

As recommended by the Execom, this is the new basis for judging Best Picture in the annual fest, according to Cascaljan: 60 percent for artistic and technical merit; 35 percent for box-office earnings; and 15 per cent for Filipino cultural values.

Producers consulted

Oscar Isaacson, the new festival head and chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), which spearheads the fest, explained that changing the criteria is in line with the goal of improving the festival.

"In the past, the results [of the awards] were questioned by critics. I'm aware of the controversies. That's why we decided to tackle those issues and change the criteria," Isaacson said.

He noted that he also hopes to involve more members of the movie industry in the decision-making process. "We want to invite directors and producers... we want to hear their opinions."

To this end, a consultation meeting with producers was set on March 3, to discuss the festival's rules and regulations, said Isaacson.

"The recommended changes in the criteria will be presented to producers. The chair feels strongly that producers should be consulted," said Roa.

He said one way to meet the fest's target of P0.5 billion in box-office earnings is to prepare for it early in the game. "We are eyeing an earlier launch this year."

The film fest was launched in an appreciation dinner set Feb. 26. Announcements of the eight official entries is set on May 26. Dec. 30 is the deadline for the submission of finished films.

Under the new leadership, deadlines are hoped to be enforced strictly.

Stickler for rules

"Because of his background as a former judge, the chair is very particular about rules... all our board resolutions are in black and white," said Roa.

Considering that it's an election year, the composition of the MMFF Execom may be affected, if not altered, by the change in administration.

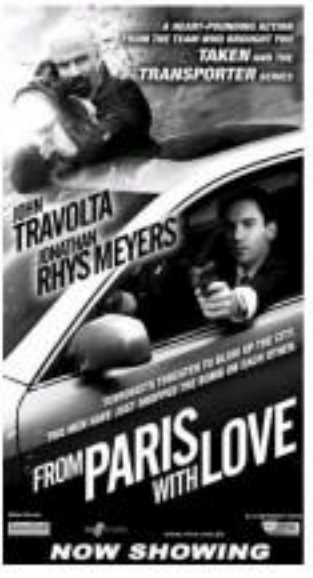
"It's governed by a Charter, Executive Order 640," Roa said.

"The appointment of the members of the different committees cover a one-year period, the entire duration of the festival period," said Rolando Josol, executive director of the MMFF executive committee.

Isaacson insisted that he's a movie fan, too. "I've seen almost all of the movies of Fernando Poe Jr."

He hopes the festival will encourage Filipinos to patronize local movie-makers.

"The MMFF is our chance to prove that we can make movies that are as good as those done by foreigners," he said.



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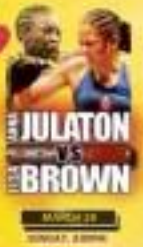
Dear Friend
MY STALKING HEART



JULATON VS BROWN

MARCH 28

MARAMI PANG MAIINIT NA PROGRAMANG
DAPAT ABANGAN!

60 GMA years

Touching Hearts. Enriching Lives.